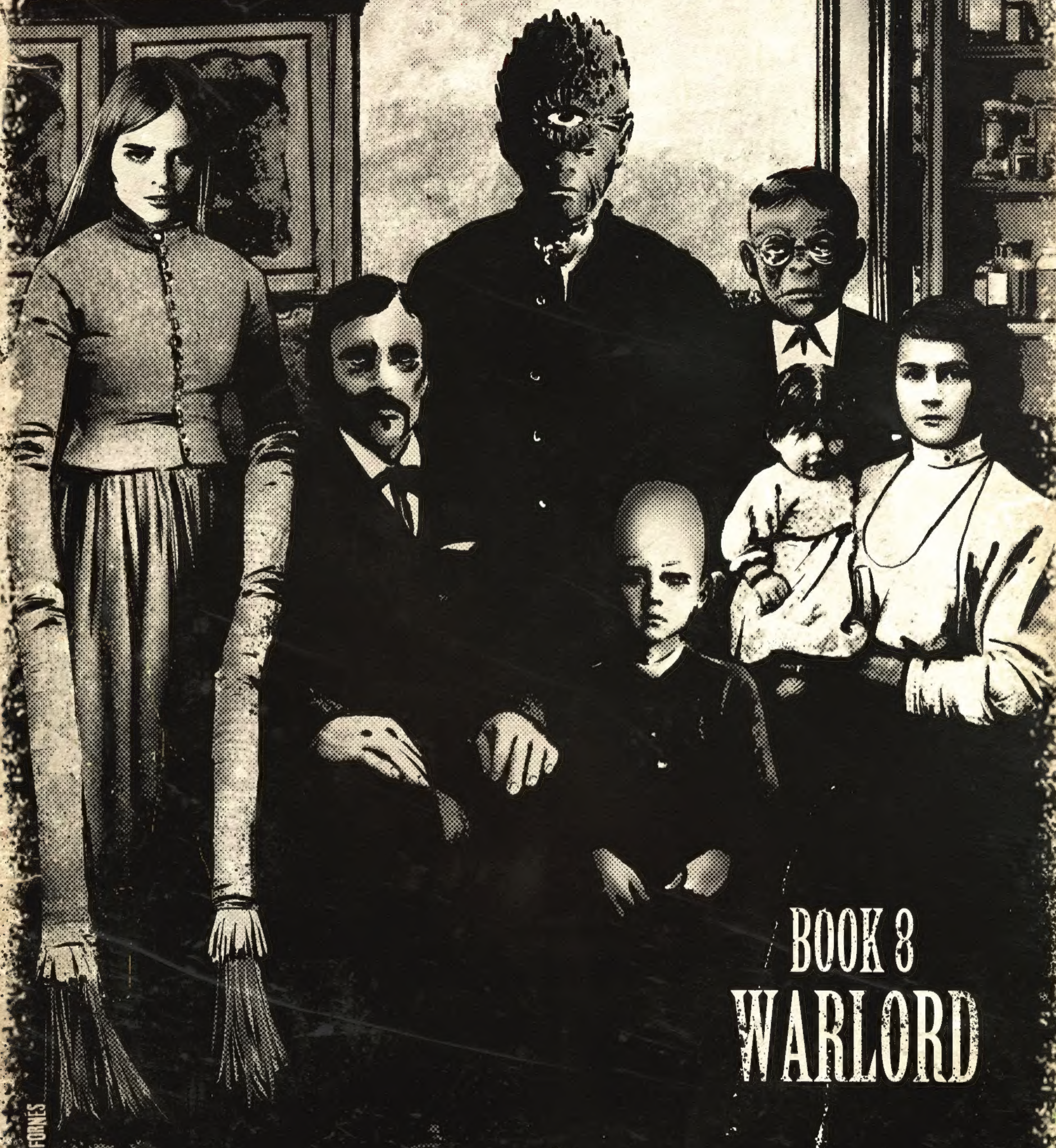




KING FURNÉS STEWART  
**DANGER**  
**STREET**



BOOK 8  
**WARLORD**



DISCOVER HOW THE DARK KNIGHT MET THE MAN OF STEEL!

BATMAN • SUPERMAN

# WORLD'S FINEST

#18

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AUGUST

WRITTEN BY  
**MARK WAID**

ART BY  
**TRAVIS MOORE**

MAIN COVER BY DAN MORA



# DANGER STREET

BOOK EIGHT

## CHAPTER 8: THE WARLORD

TOM KING  
Writer

JORGE FORNÉS  
Artist & Cover Artist

DAVE STEWART  
Colorist

CLAYTON COWLES  
Letterer

MIKE GRELL  
Variant Cover Artist





BRITTANY HOLZHERR  
Editor

JILLIAN GRANT  
Assistant Editor

CHRIS CONROY  
Group Editor

KENNY LOPEZ  
Design Director –  
Publication Design

TIFFANY HUANG  
Publication Production

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ANNE DePIES  
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LAWRENCE GANEM  
VP – Editorial Programming & Talent Strategy

ALISON GILL  
Senior VP – Manufacturing & Operations

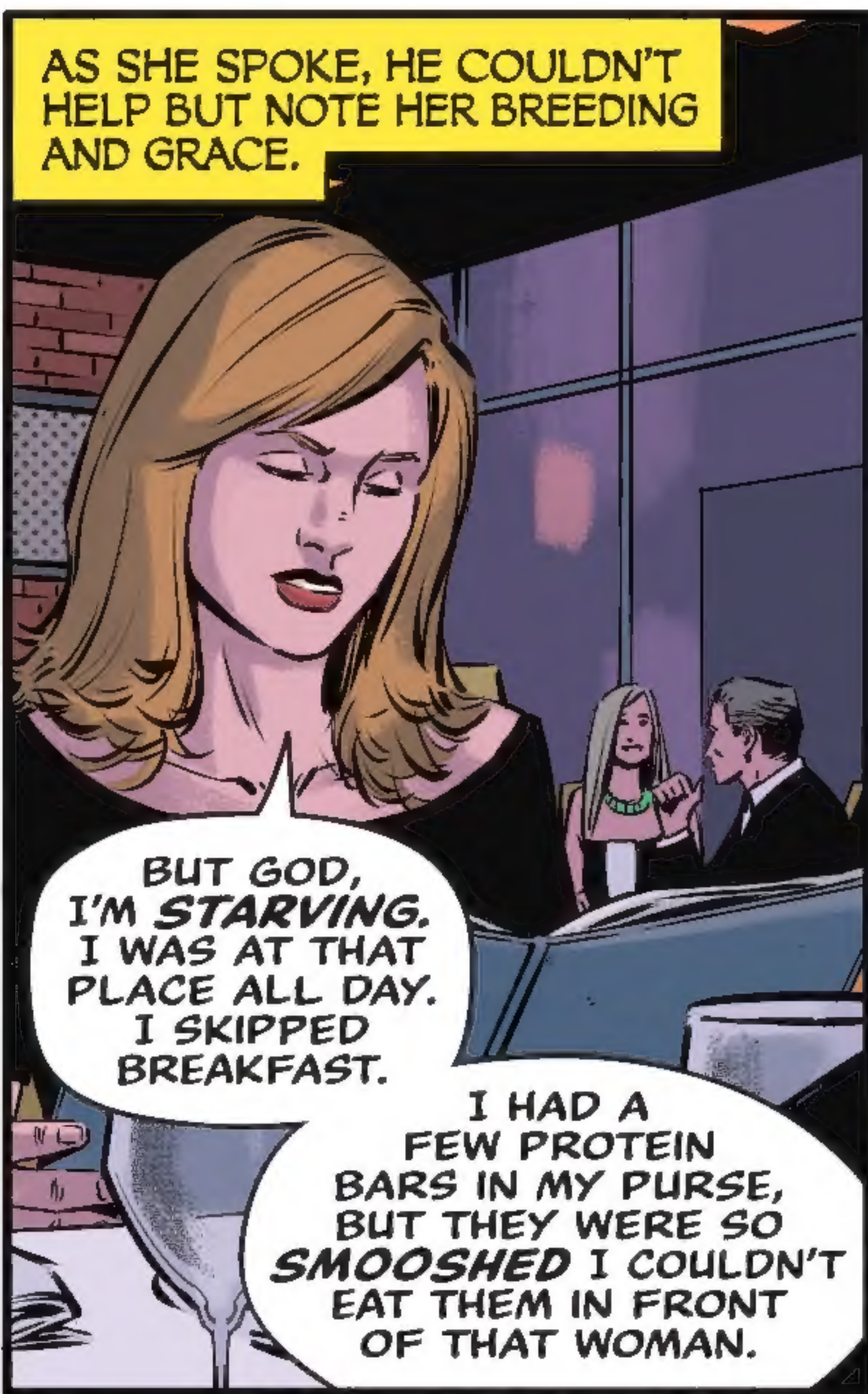
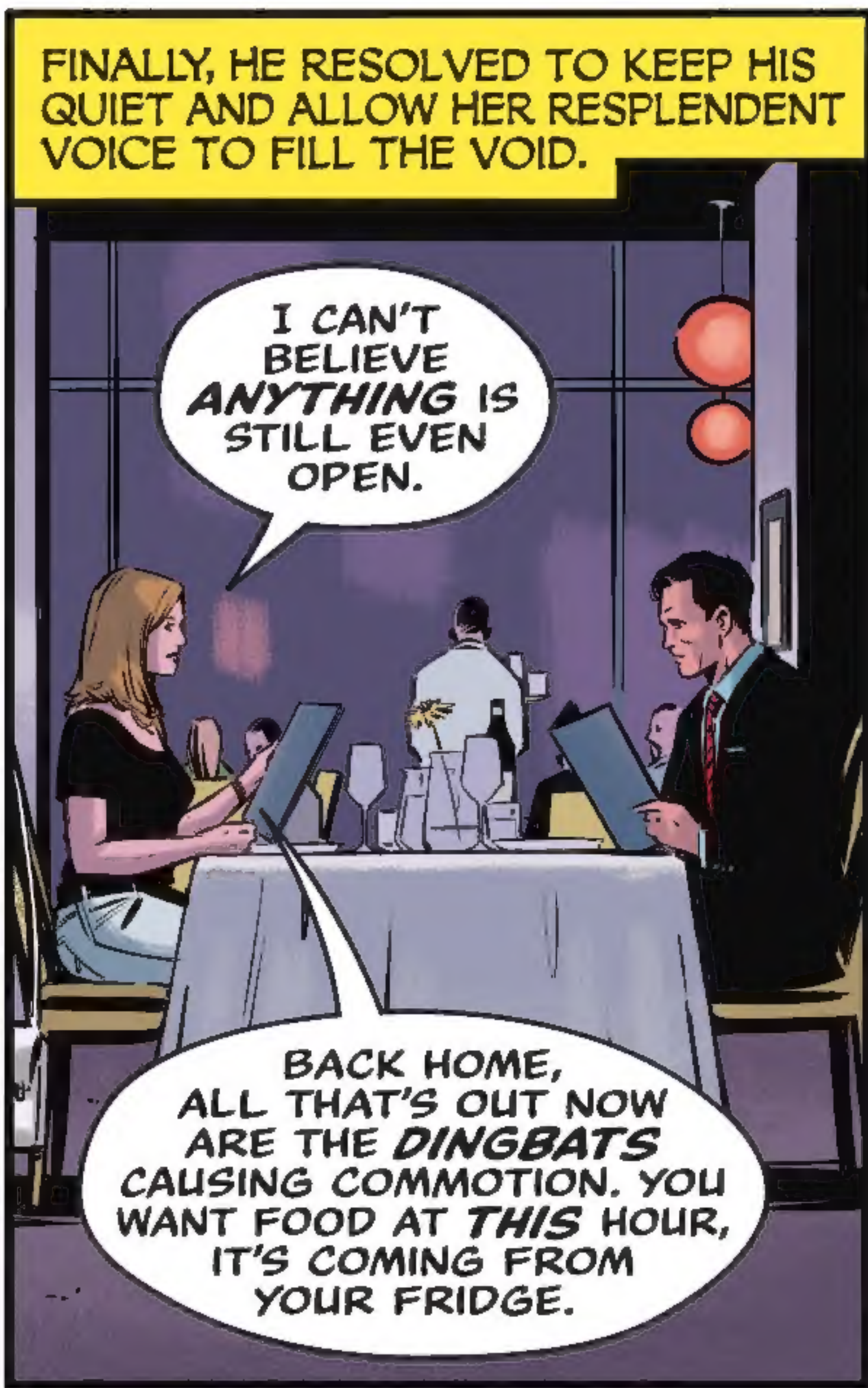
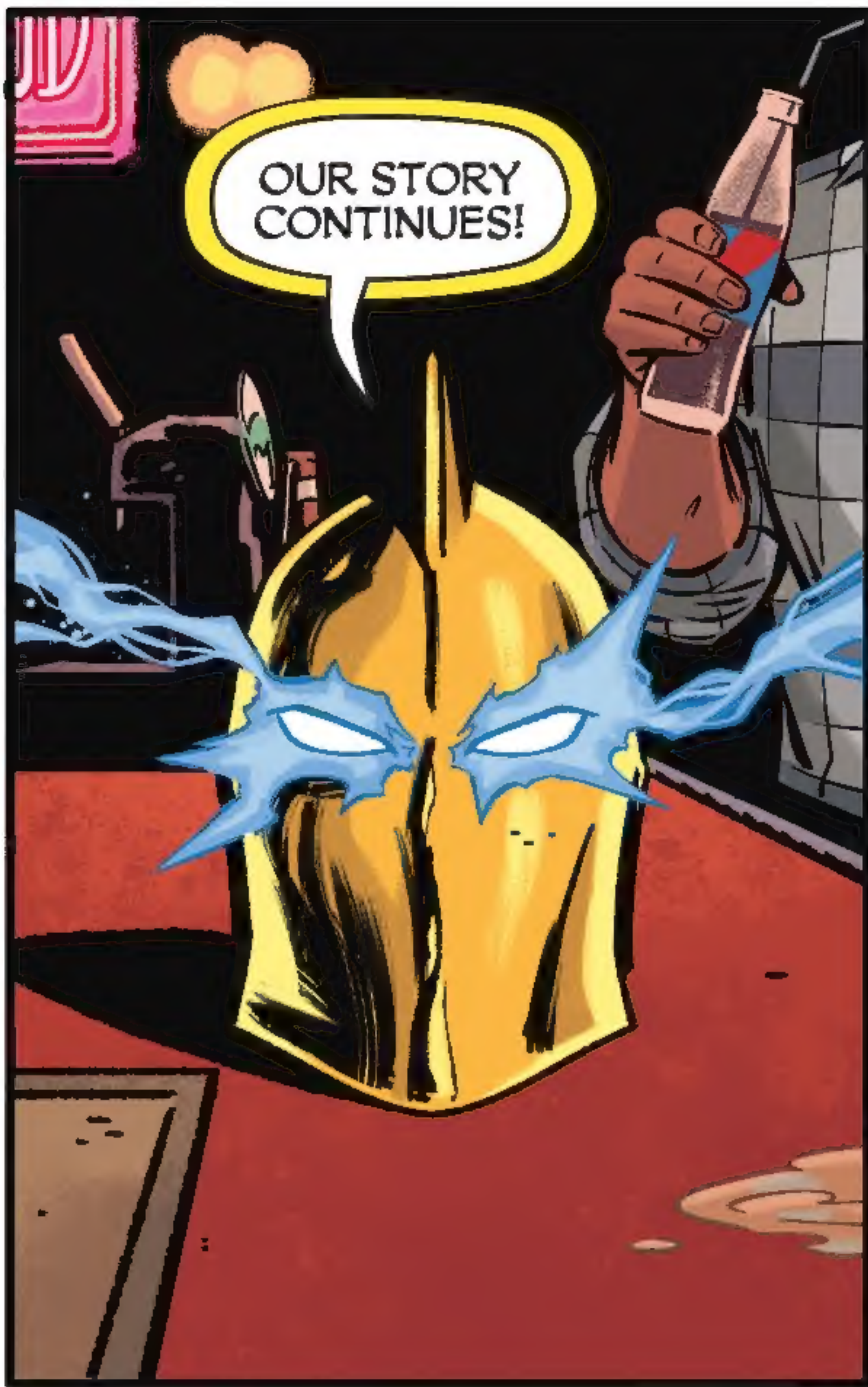
NICK J. NAPOLITANO  
VP – Publishing & Business Operations

NANCY SPEARS  
VP – Sales & Marketing

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MEANWHILE, IN THE PRINCESS'S OWN DUNGEON, A FAR TREK FROM THE VILLAGE, TWO OF OUR LADS CALLED FOR HELP.



COOPER!  
COOOOOOOPER!

COOPER  
COOPER  
COOPER  
COOPER!

COOOOOOOOOOOPERRRRRRRRRRR!

YOU WILL REMEMBER, THEY HAD RECENTLY BEEN CAPTURED BY THE GUARD FOR VANDALIZING A SACRED SIGN.



COOPER!

THIS, HOWEVER, TURNED OUT TO BE THE FIRST STEP IN A CLEVER RUSE.



WHAT?!

STOP IT! I  
HEAR YOU!  
I'M TRYING  
TO EAT!

A RUSE THAT WAS JUST THEN ON THE VERGE OF REVEAL.



HEY COOP,  
WHAT TIME  
IS IT?



THERE'S A CLOCK  
UP THERE. WHAT  
ARE YOU ASKING  
ME FOR?



I DON'T  
KNOW IF THAT  
THING'S *RIGHT*,  
COOP. I DIDN'T  
SET IT.

C'MON, IT'S  
*IMPORTANT*.  
JUST LET ME KNOW  
WHAT TIME IT IS. I'M  
NOT TRYING TO BE,  
LIKE, WEIRD OR  
ANYTHING.



BANANAS, IT'S TEN O'CLOCK  
P.M. ON THE DOT.

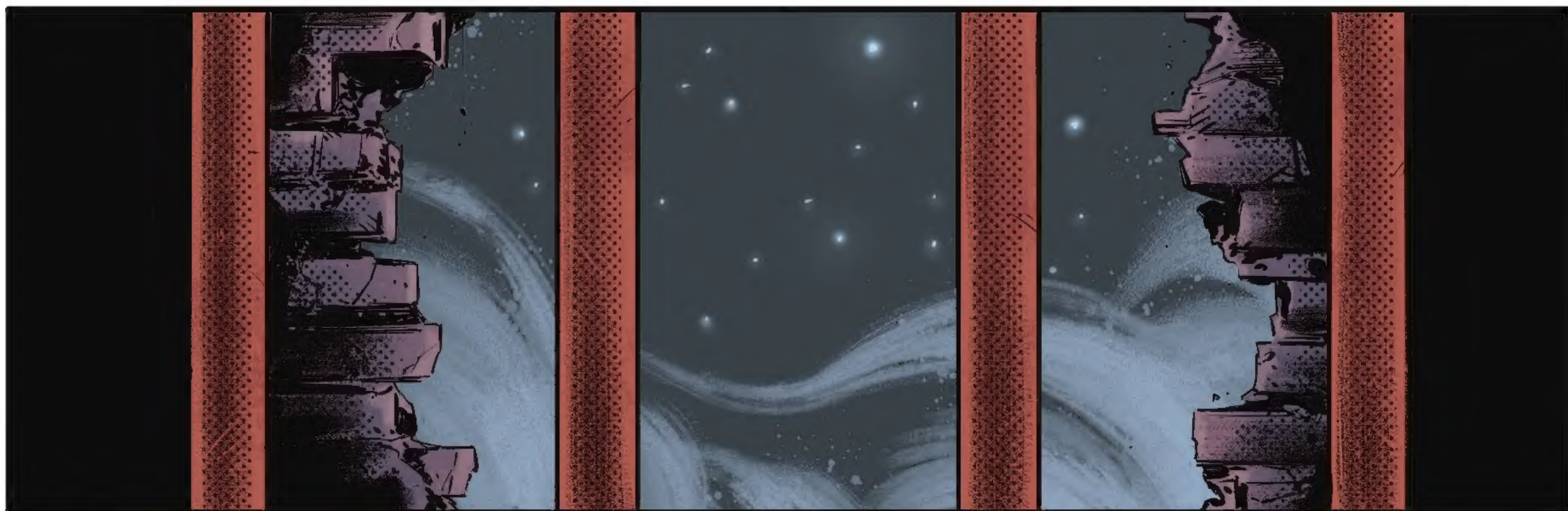
THAT'S WHEN  
I GET TO EAT THE  
FIRST HALF OF MY  
SANDWICH.

I *JUST*  
CHECKED.  
DON'T EVEN  
NEED TO LOOK  
AT MY  
WATCH.











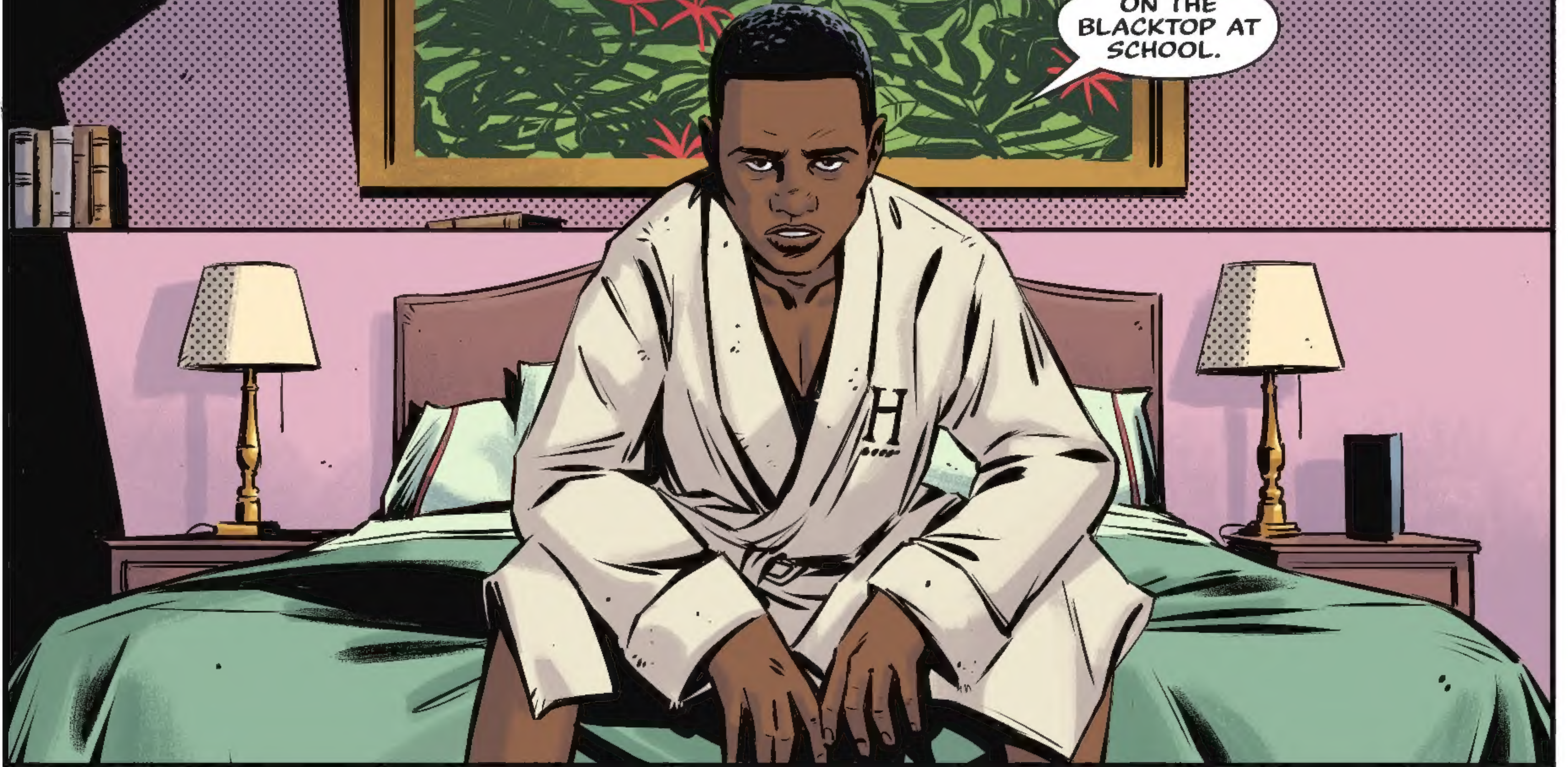




AS THE LADS MADE THEIR DARING EXIT,  
ACROSS AN OCEAN, A MONSTER BEGAN  
A CURIOUS AND EXOTIC STORY.

SO THERE'S  
THIS **GAME** WE USED  
TO PLAY.

ON THE  
BLACKTOP AT  
SCHOOL.



"THERE WERE  
CRACKS IN THE  
ASPHALT, SEE. A  
BUNCH OF THEM.

"BUT OUT OF A FEW  
CRACKS THERE WAS  
STUFF GROWING,  
WEEDS OR GRASS.

"AND WE USED TO DO  
THIS THING WHERE  
WE'D GO ACROSS THE  
WHOLE THING. THAT  
PART OF THE YARD,  
I MEAN.

"AND YOU COULD  
ONLY STEP ON  
THE CRACKS THAT  
HAD THE GREEN  
STUFF COMING  
OUT OF THEM.

"AND SO THE GOAL WAS TO CROSS THE  
WHOLE THING. GO TO THE WALL AND  
BACK WHILE STAYING ON THOSE LINES.

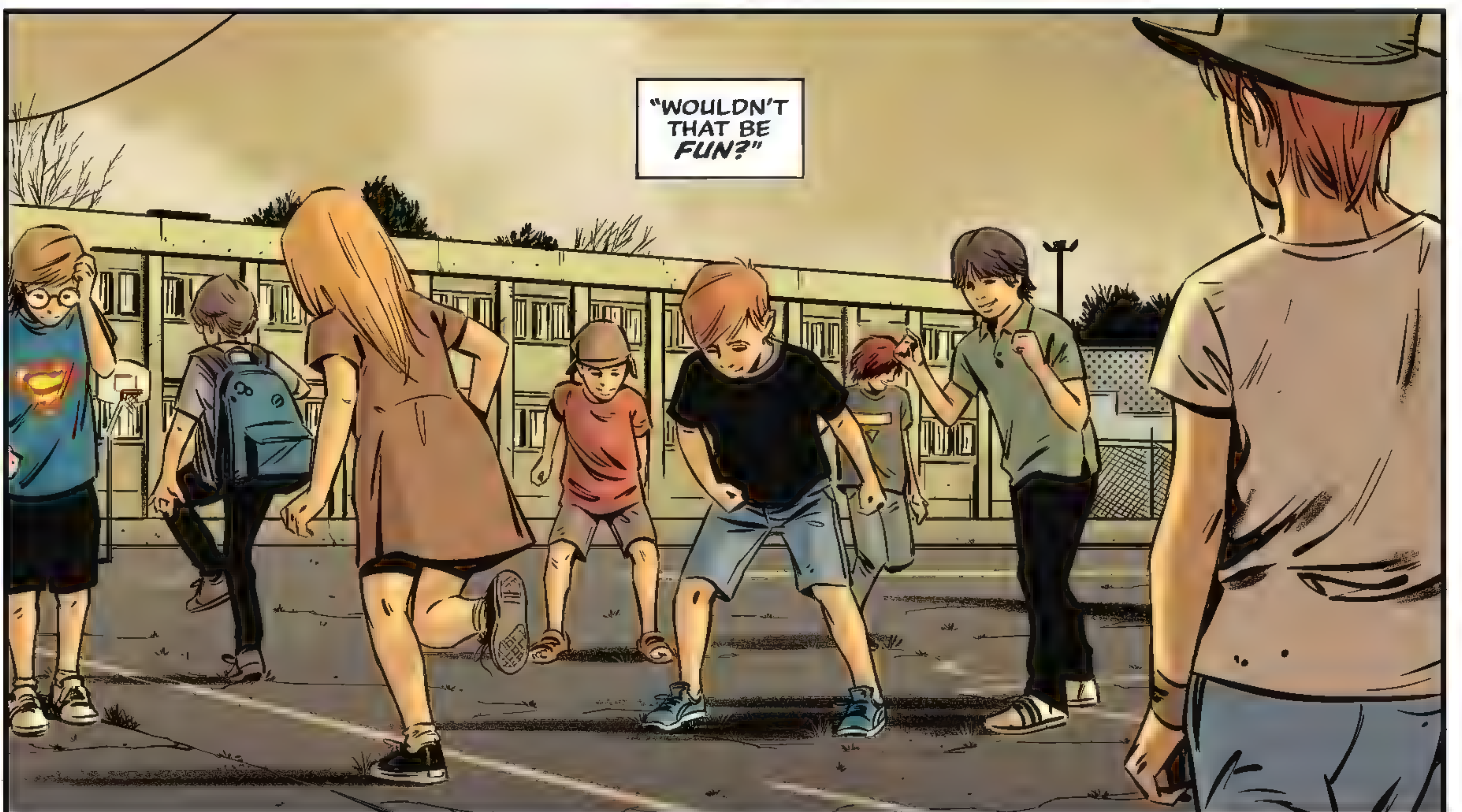
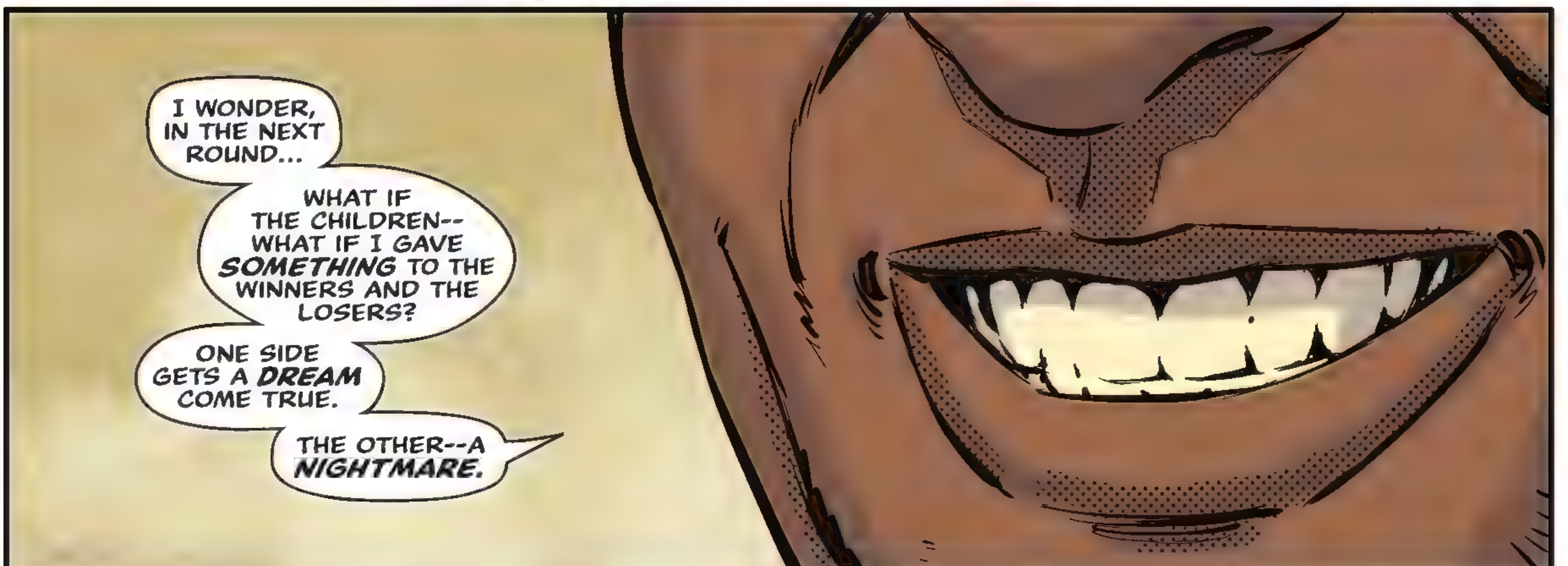
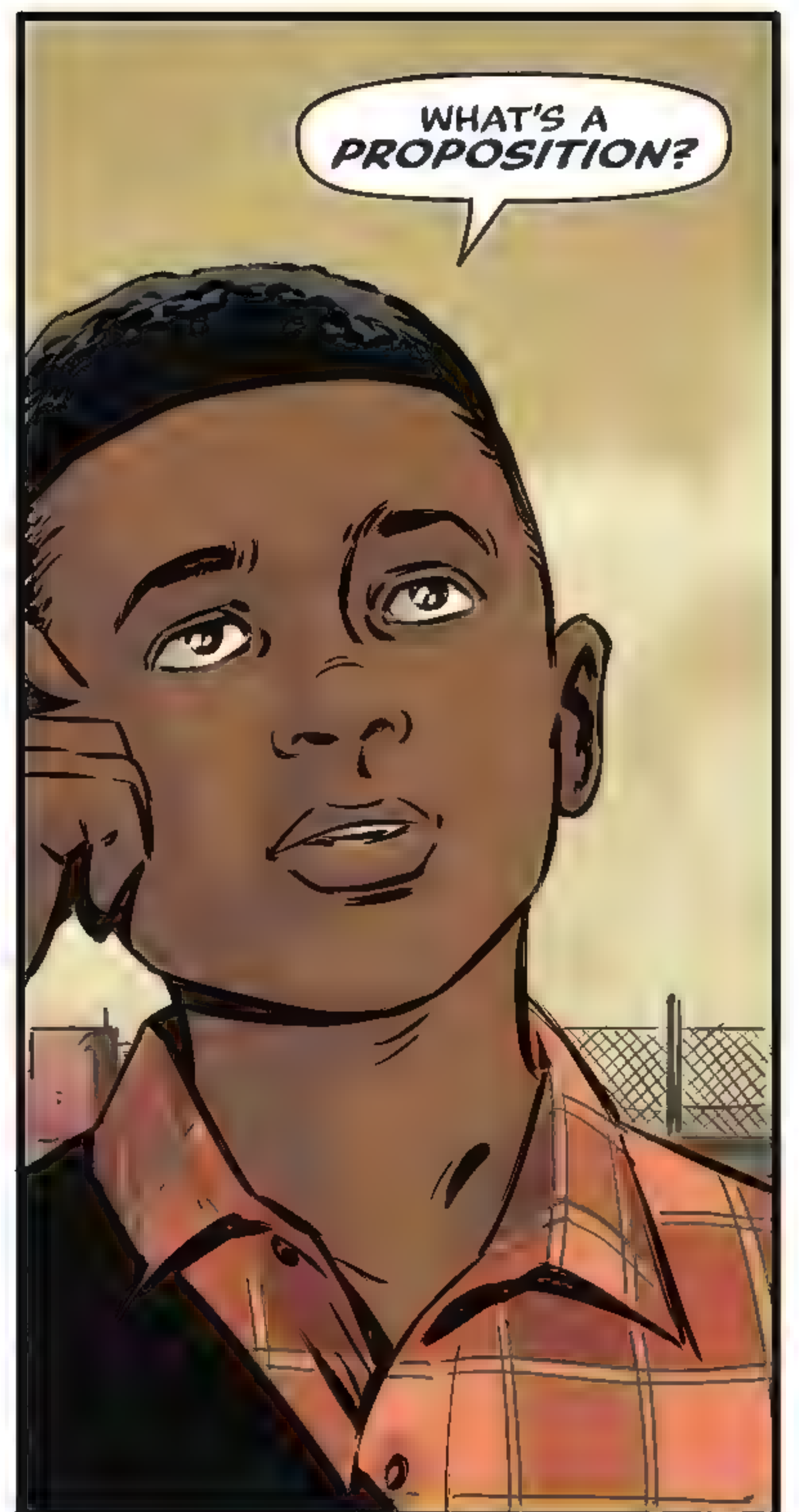
"IF YOU MADE IT, YOU  
GOT TO BE PART OF  
THE WINNING TEAM  
FOR THE DAY, WHICH  
WE CALLED **THE  
GREEN TEAM**.

"IF YOU LOST, IF YOU  
PUT ONE FOOT DOWN  
TO BALANCE OR JUMP,  
IF YOU FELL, IF YOU  
PUT A FOOT OUTSIDE  
THE CRACKS, Y'KNOW...

"...THEN YOU WERE  
AN **OUTSIDER**."











YOU SHOULDN'T TALK TO STRANGERS, **ABDUL**.

DIDN'T ANYONE EVER TEACH YOU THAT?

"STRANGER DANGER" MEAN ANYTHING TO YOU?



STOP YELLING AT HIM. SO HE MADE A MISTAKE.

WHAT'S THE WORST THAT COULD HAPPEN? HEH HEH.



YOU'RE *INTERRUPTING*! IT'S SO IMPORTANT AND I WANT TO HEAR HOW IT ENDS!

IT'S A *REAL* GOOD STORY!



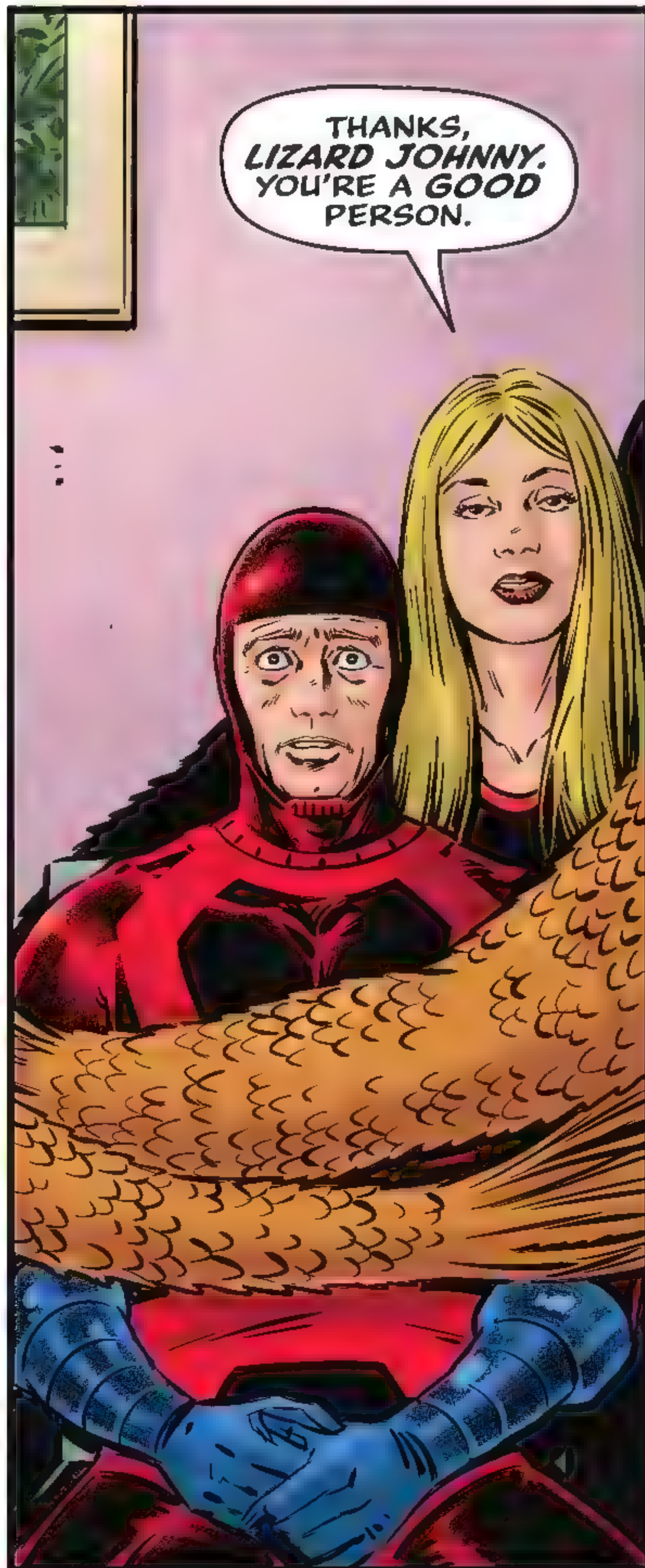
IF YOU THINK IT'S A GOOD STORY, THEN YOU'VE *ALREADY* HEARD IT, AND THEN IT'S *NOT* IMPORTANT TO SEE HOW IT ENDS.

EVERYONE KNOWS THAT. YOU'RE SO *DUMB*.



DON'T CALL HER DUMB, *HAIRY LARRY*, OR WE'LL HAVE A FIGHT AND THEN I'LL *BEAT* YOU.

I WANT TO HEAR THE STORY TOO, SO DOES THAT MAKE ME DUMB? YOU SHOULD THINK ABOUT THAT, UNLESS YOU'RE *ALSO* DUMB.



THANKS, *LIZARD JOHNNY*. YOU'RE A GOOD PERSON.



FAR AWAY FROM THESE ODD HAPPENINGS,  
IN A CAVE IN THE SKY, A MONSTER  
PREPARED A DRINK.

ABDUL  
SURFACED IN  
*HAWAII*, AT A  
RESORT.

**STOMP!**

HE HID  
FOR A *MONTH?! DIDN'T* KNOW LITTLE  
*ABDUL* HAD IT  
IN HIM.

OR MAYBE  
YOUR *MANHUNTER*  
ISN'T THE GREAT BIG  
BAD WOLF YOU MAKE HIM  
OUT TO BE. I SUPPOSE  
THAT'S ALWAYS A  
*POSSIBILITY*.

TWO HOURS  
AFTER HE CHECKED  
IN UNDER THE NAME  
*J. SIMON*, HE'D  
GONE MISSING.

HE WAS  
LAST SEEN  
AT THE BEACH.  
GETTING A  
*SUNTAN*.

MAYBE HE  
JUST WENT  
UNDERGROUND  
AGAIN. CAUGHT  
YOU LOOKING  
AT HIM.

THERE WERE  
FOOTPRINTS IN  
THE SAND. I HAD  
PICTURES OF  
THEM SENT  
TO ME.

ONE SET  
OF TRACKS  
SHOWS ABDUL  
RUNNING.

THE  
*OTHER* SET,  
WHICH IS WALKING  
AFTER ABDUL,  
MATCHES THE  
*MANHUNTER*.

JESUS  
#~\$%ω#@  
CHRIST! IT'S  
#~\$%ω#@  
*BROKEN!*

*BOTH*  
SETS OF  
TRACKS WENT  
INTO THE WATER.  
THE *BODY* HAS  
NOT BEEN  
FOUND.





YO,  
CODENAME:  
ASSASSIN.

GET THIS  
OPEN.



WITH  
**ABDUL**  
FINALLY OFF THE  
FIELD, I EXPECT  
YOU WILL BE  
NEXT.



OH NO.  
I'M **SO** SCARED.  
AAAAAH.



THE **MANHUNTER**  
WILL NOT ATTEMPT  
IT SUBTLY.

HE KNOWS  
THE **OBSTACLE**,  
AND HE WILL COME  
TO IT WITH THE  
PREPARATION TO  
OVERCOME IT.



I WILL  
MEET HIM AT  
THE GATES.

AND  
IT WILL BE  
DECIDED.



THANKS FOR  
THE **UPDATE**. TRY  
NOT TO LOSE.

ANYTHING  
ELSE?





YES. A REQUEST.

I WOULD LIKE TO BORROW THIS. HE WILL BE **ARMED**. SO SHALL I.



THAT'S THE **BIGGEST** DIAMOND IN THE WORLD. I SOLD MY **SOUL** FOR THAT ONE.

IT'S ONE OF THE FEW THINGS I KNOW ARE WORTH MORE THAN THE TOO MUCH I'VE **ALREADY** PAID YOU.

DO I **LOOK LIKE** A #πøç%?



IF *I* WIN, YOU WILL LIVE. IF I DIE, *YOU* WILL DIE.

HOW MUCH IS *THAT* WORTH?



AND IF YOU RUN--RUN AWAY WITH IT BECAUSE YOU'RE AFRAID OF THE **SPOOKY** MANHUNTER?

WHAT DO *I* DO THEN? BESIDES, Y'KNOW, GET MY NECK ALL **BROKEN**.



YOU THINK I'M HERE FOR THE **MONEY**.

I THOUGHT THAT ONCE TOO. I WAS **NAIVE**.

I KNOW NOW THE MONEY IS **INSIGNIFICANT**. EVERYTHING IS... WORTHLESS. EXCEPT...



...I AM HERE FOR **HIM**.

I HAVE **ALWAYS** BEEN HERE FOR HIM.



AS THE KNIGHT CONSIDERED HIS FATE,  
TWO PRINCES EMBRACED IN THE DARK.



YOU THINK  
WE GOT TIME FOR  
A *HIGH SCHOOL*  
REUNION?!

HURRY  
THE *0\$%\$*  
UP!

A CARRIAGE AWAITED THEM,  
PREPARED TO DASH THE TWO  
NOBLES TO SANCTUARY.



THANK  
YOU.

SORRY IT  
TOOK SO LONG.  
I WOULD'VE...  
W...

FOR THE LOCAL CONSTABLE WAS  
AT THAT VERY MOMENT GATHERING  
HIS WITS AND READINGY HIMSELF  
TO PURSUE THE WAYWARD PAIR AND  
ONCE AGAIN SNATCH AWAY THEIR  
FREEDOM.



I...

STAR!

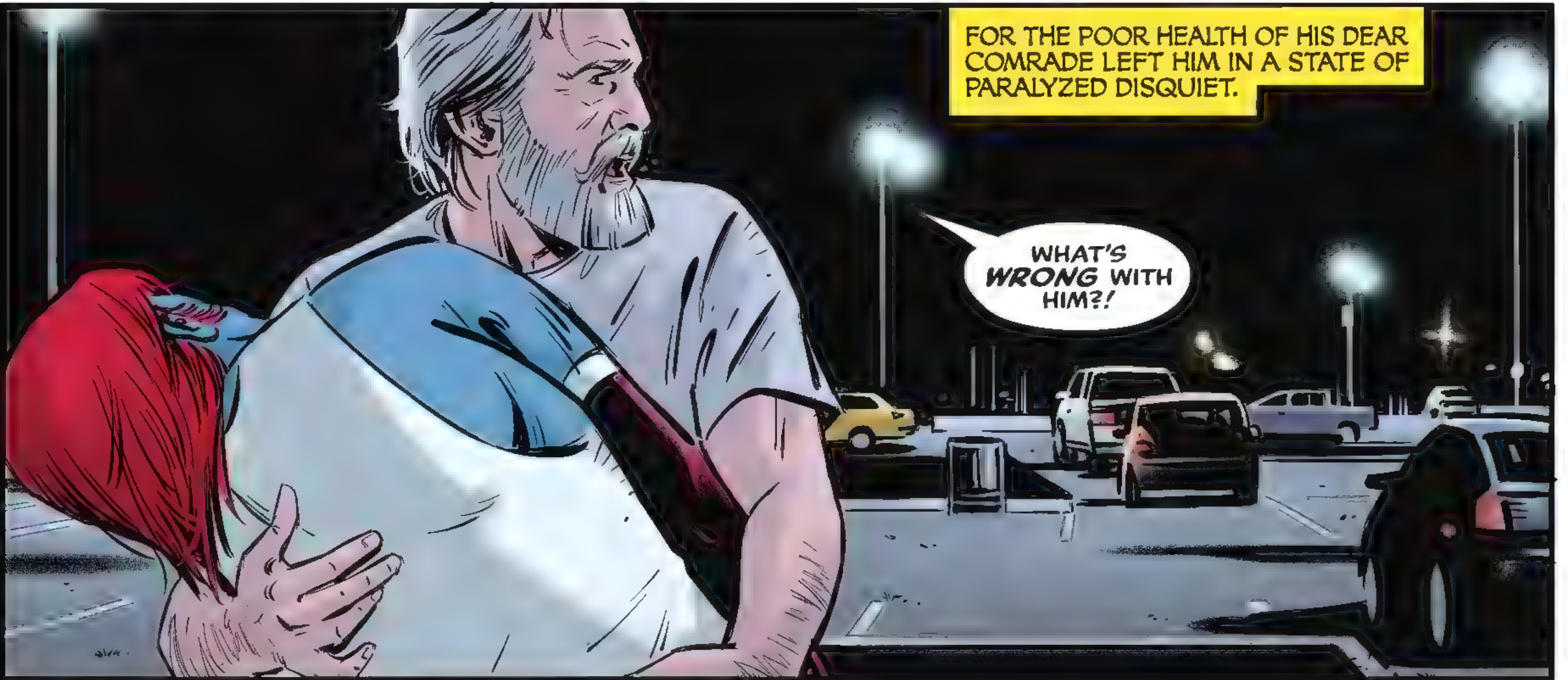
DESPITE THAT THREAT,  
THE JUST-FREED PRINCE  
HESITATED TO FLEE.



WHAT  
IS...ARE  
YOU...

STAR?

FOR THE POOR HEALTH OF HIS DEAR  
COMRADE LEFT HIM IN A STATE OF  
PARALYZED DISQUIET.



WHAT'S  
WRONG WITH  
HIM?!





DUDE, HE'S BEEN THAT WAY! IT'S A WHOLE #~£%ω#@ THING! WE DON'T HAVE TIME!

GET THE Ø\$%J IN!



WHAT DO YOU MEAN HE'S BEEN THAT WAY?!

YOU JUST TOLD ME INSIDE HE WAS FINE!



WHAT THE Ø\$%J DO YOU THINK "WE DON'T HAVE TIME" MEANS?

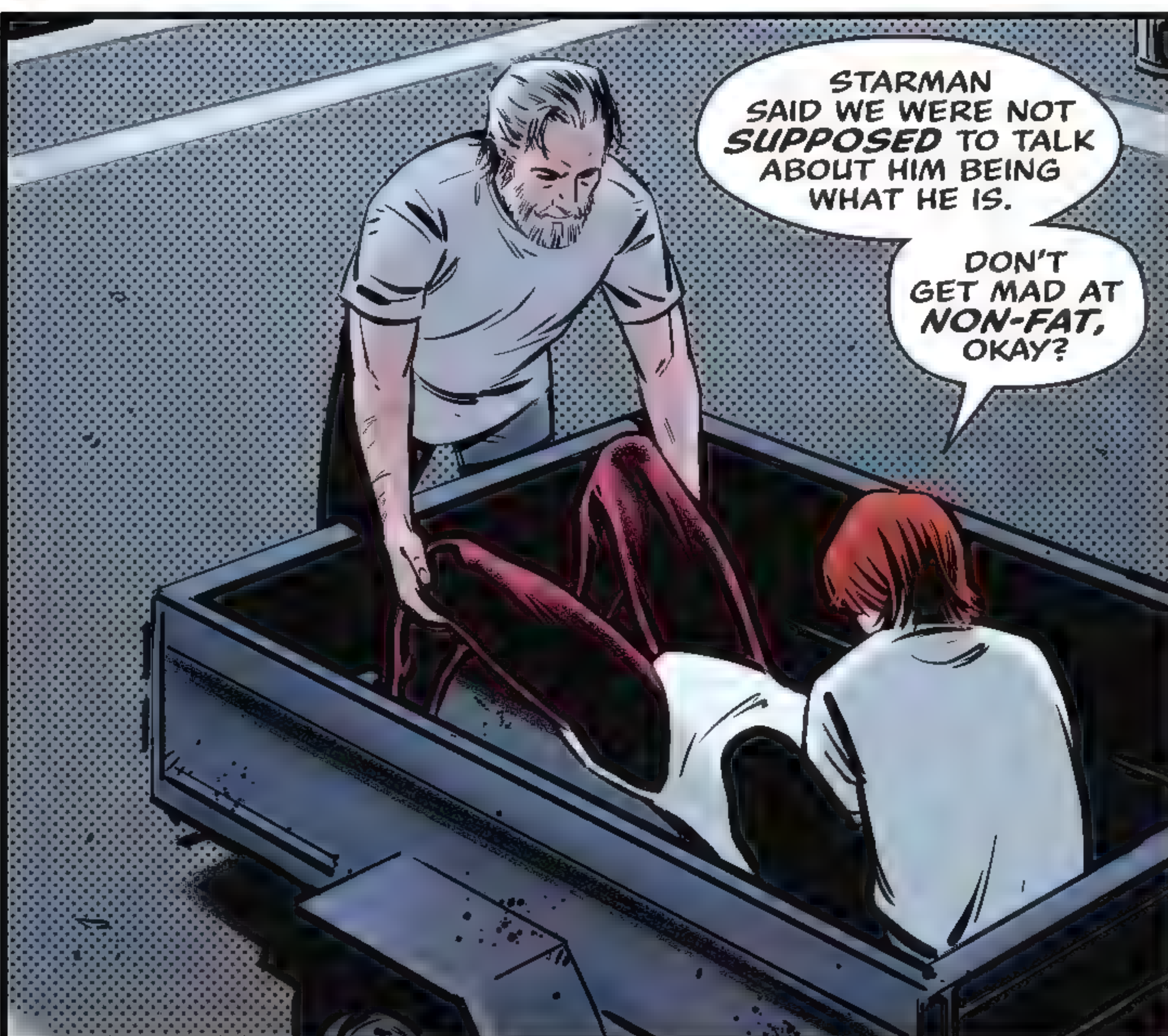
WE'RE GOING TO HAVE A CONVERSATION NOW? #~£%ω#@ COOPER IS STUPID AS DIRT, BUT @#1\$, EVEN DIRT MOVES IF IT'S KICKED.

AND WE JUST KICKED SOME #~£%ω#@ DIRT!



IF HE COMES, I WILL DEAL WITH IT.

NOW YOU TELL ME ABOUT WHAT'S WRONG WITH MY FRIEND.



STARMAN SAID WE WERE NOT SUPPOSED TO TALK ABOUT HIM BEING WHAT HE IS.

DON'T GET MAD AT NON-FAT, OKAY?



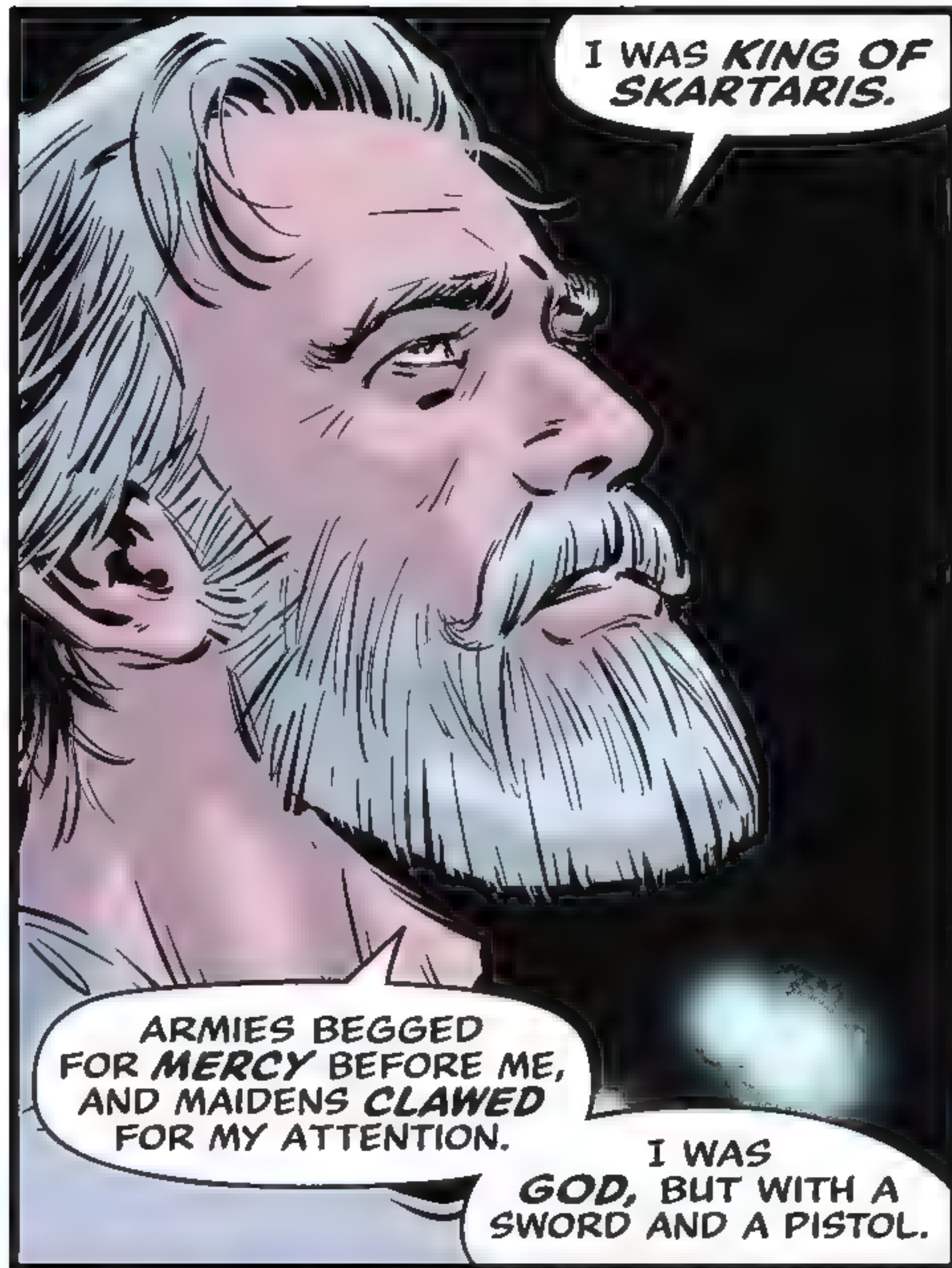
YOU Ø\$%J-UP! COOPER IS GOING TO GET LADY COP TO RUIN MY #~£%ω#@ LIFE!

GET YOUR OLD @%# IN THE #~£%ω#@ CAR!





JESUS.



I WAS KING OF SKARTARIS.

ARMIES BEGGED FOR **MERCY** BEFORE ME, AND MAIDENS **CLAWED** FOR MY ATTENTION.

I WAS **GOD**, BUT WITH A SWORD AND A PISTOL.



HEY, DO YOU LIKE **GRAPES**?

I GOT SOME FOR THE RIDE. I DIDN'T EAT ALL OF THEM YET.

WE COULD **SHARE**, IF YOU WANT.



WHAT KIND OF **GRAPES**?

THE **RED** ONES. I DON'T LIKE THE ONES THAT ARE ALL PURPLE BECAUSE THEY'RE SQUISHY.



YEAH, OKAY.

RED'S GOOD.





WHILE OUR DELIGHTFUL PRINCE GORGED HIMSELF ON A SWEET TREAT, OUR EERIE OGRE POURED THE WINE.

SHOULDN'T YOU CALL SUPERMAN?



THAT'S WHAT EVERYONE SAYS.

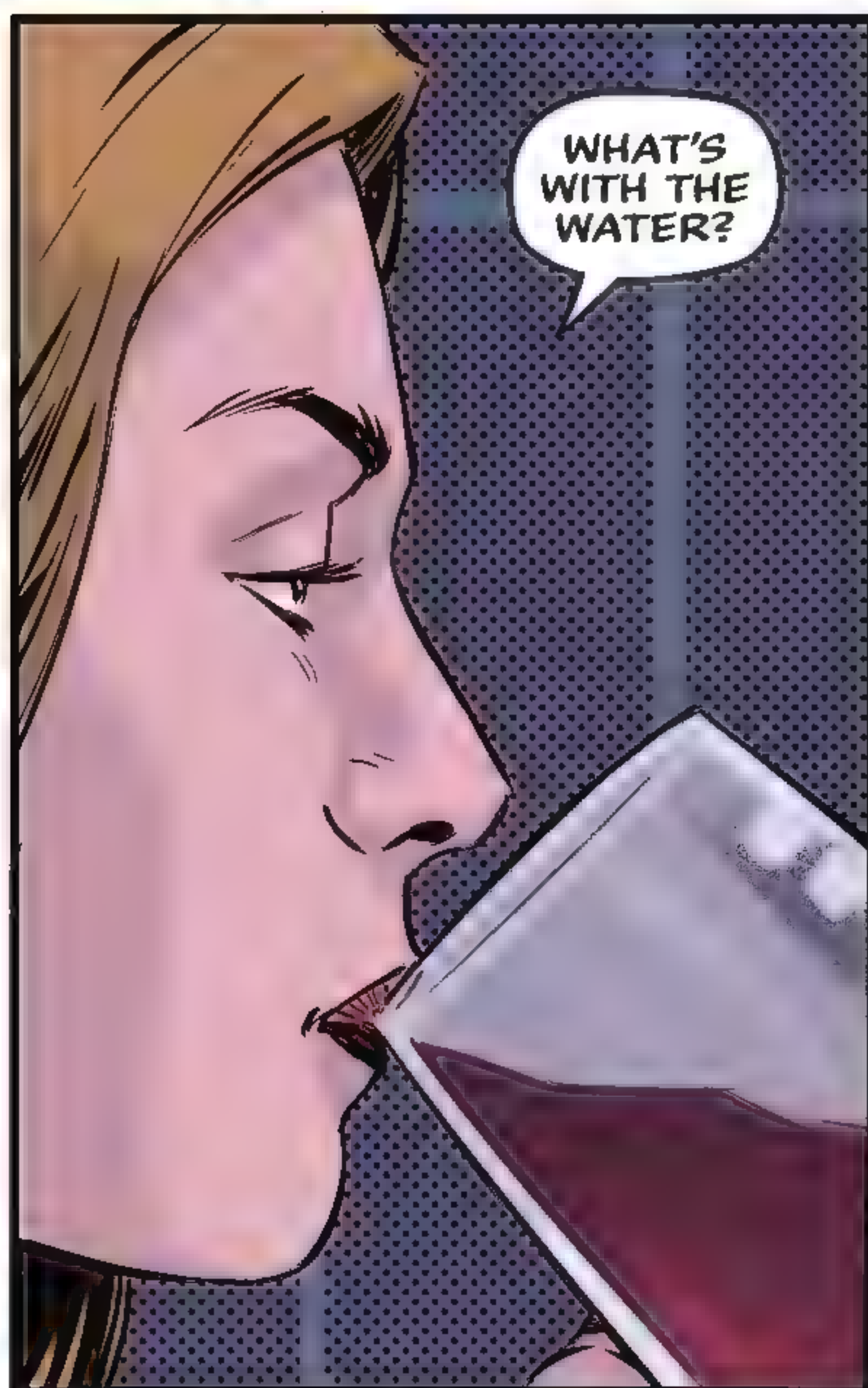
NO.

I DON'T BELIEVE IN THAT.



YOU DON'T BELIEVE IN SUPERMAN?

YOU THINK IT REALLY IS JUST A BIRD AND A PLANE?



WHAT'S WITH THE WATER?



Y'KNOW...I'M JUST A CONTROL FREAK. OF MYSELF. NOT, LIKE, EVERYTHING.

IT'S JUST, WITHOUT DISCIPLINE, SOMETIMES I GET ALL FUNNY.

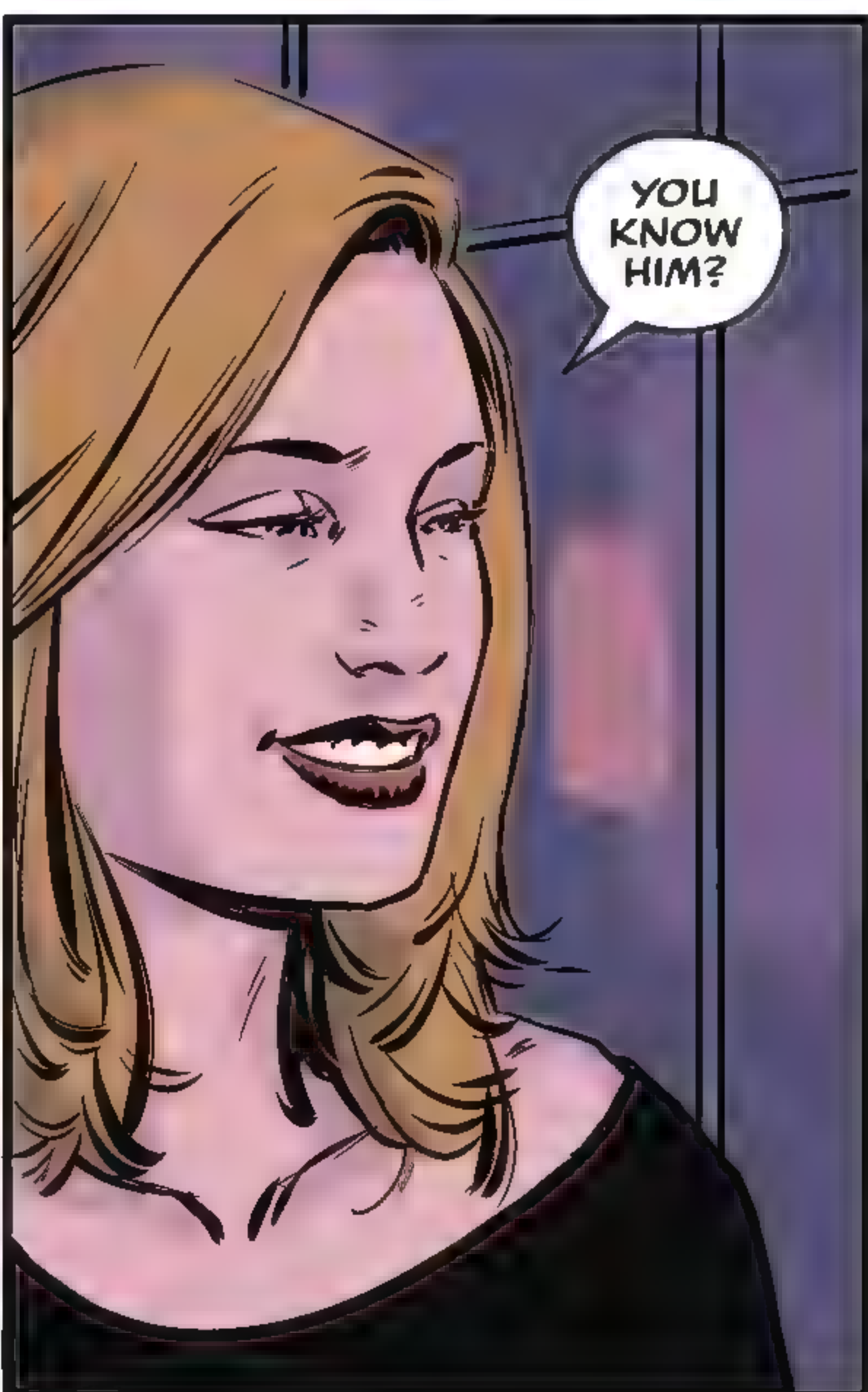


I LIKE A GOOD LAUGH, IF IT'S NOW AND THEN.



THEN YOU DEFINITELY SHOULDN'T CALL SUPERMAN.

HE'S SERIOUS ALL THE FREAKING TIME.



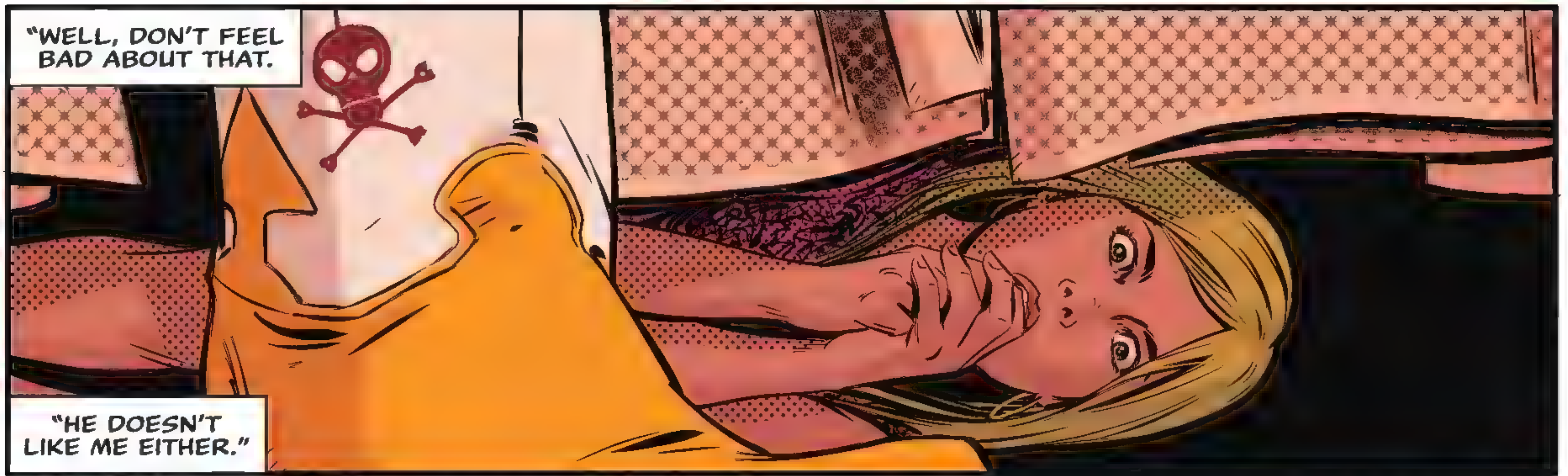
YOU KNOW HIM?



WE'VE, UH, MET. YEAH.

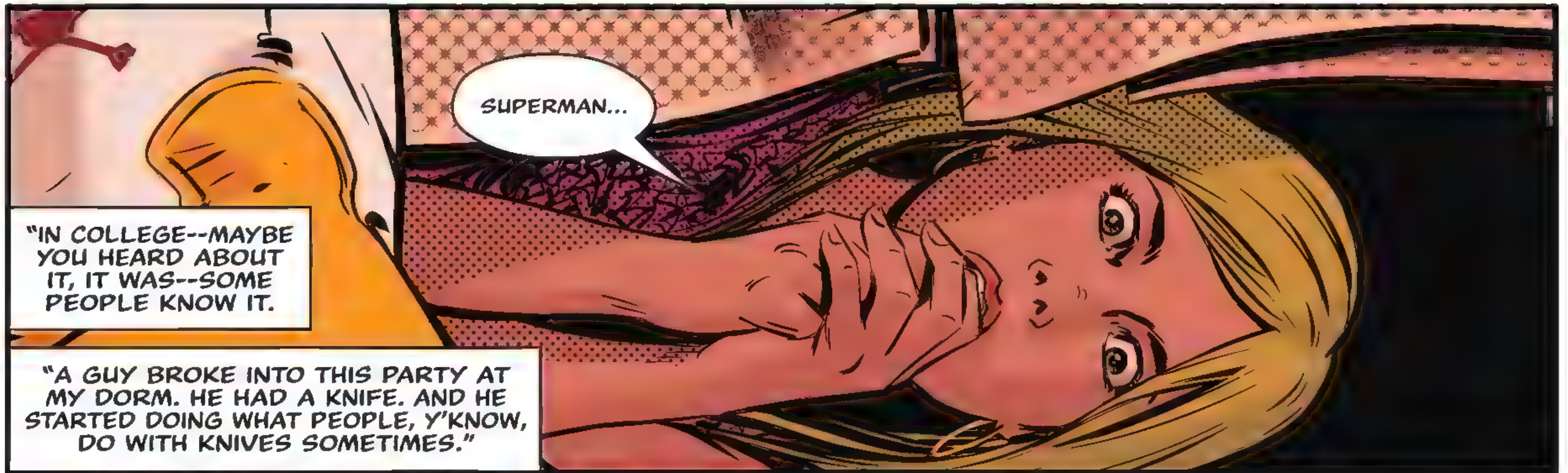
I DON'T THINK HE LIKES ME.





"WELL, DON'T FEEL BAD ABOUT THAT."

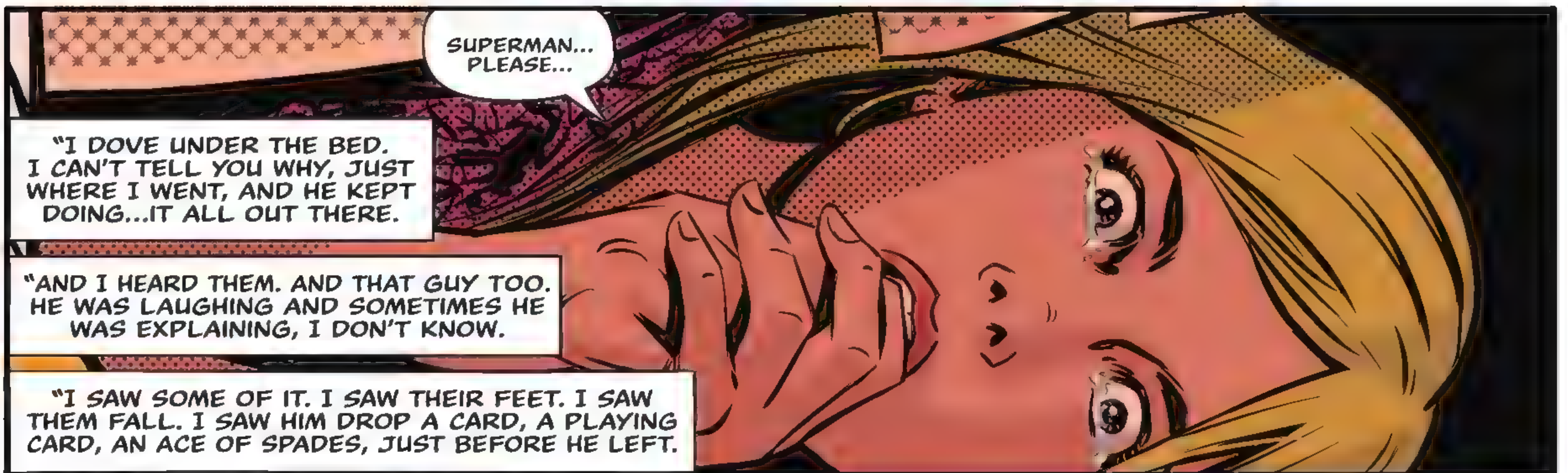
"HE DOESN'T LIKE ME EITHER."



SUPERMAN...

"IN COLLEGE--MAYBE YOU HEARD ABOUT IT, IT WAS--SOME PEOPLE KNOW IT."

"A GUY BROKE INTO THIS PARTY AT MY DORM. HE HAD A KNIFE. AND HE STARTED DOING WHAT PEOPLE, Y'KNOW, DO WITH KNIVES SOMETIMES."

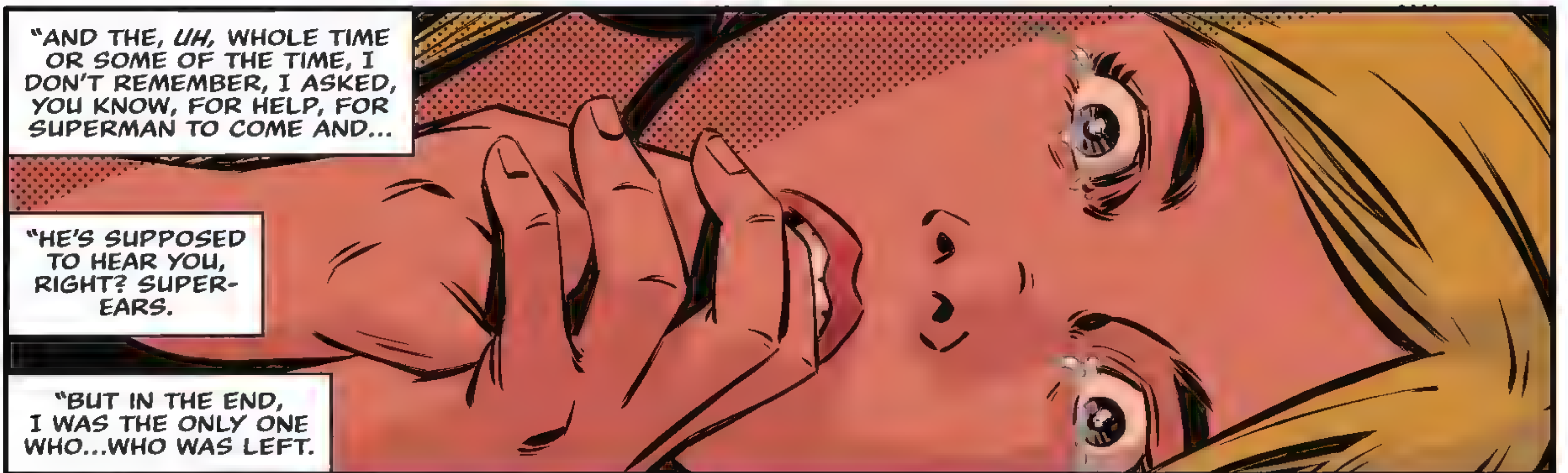


SUPERMAN... PLEASE...

"I DOVE UNDER THE BED. I CAN'T TELL YOU WHY, JUST WHERE I WENT, AND HE KEPT DOING...IT ALL OUT THERE."

"AND I HEARD THEM. AND THAT GUY TOO. HE WAS LAUGHING AND SOMETIMES HE WAS EXPLAINING, I DON'T KNOW."

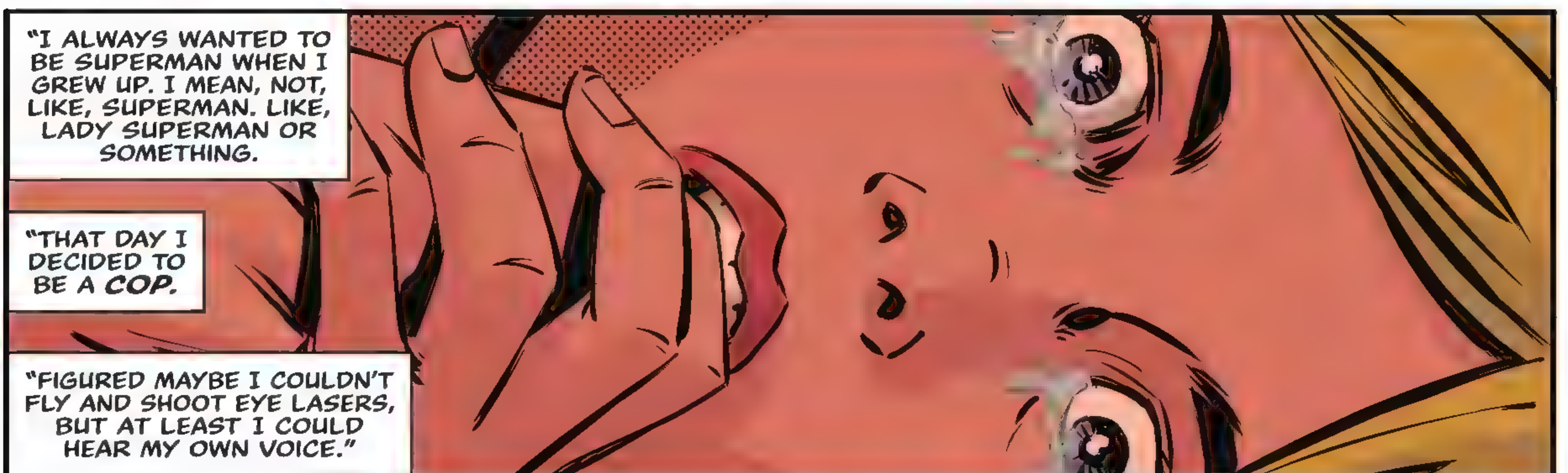
"I SAW SOME OF IT. I SAW THEIR FEET. I SAW THEM FALL. I SAW HIM DROP A CARD, A PLAYING CARD, AN ACE OF SPADES, JUST BEFORE HE LEFT."



"AND THE, UH, WHOLE TIME OR SOME OF THE TIME, I DON'T REMEMBER, I ASKED, YOU KNOW, FOR HELP, FOR SUPERMAN TO COME AND..."

"HE'S SUPPOSED TO HEAR YOU, RIGHT? SUPER-EARS."

"BUT IN THE END, I WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO...WHO WAS LEFT."

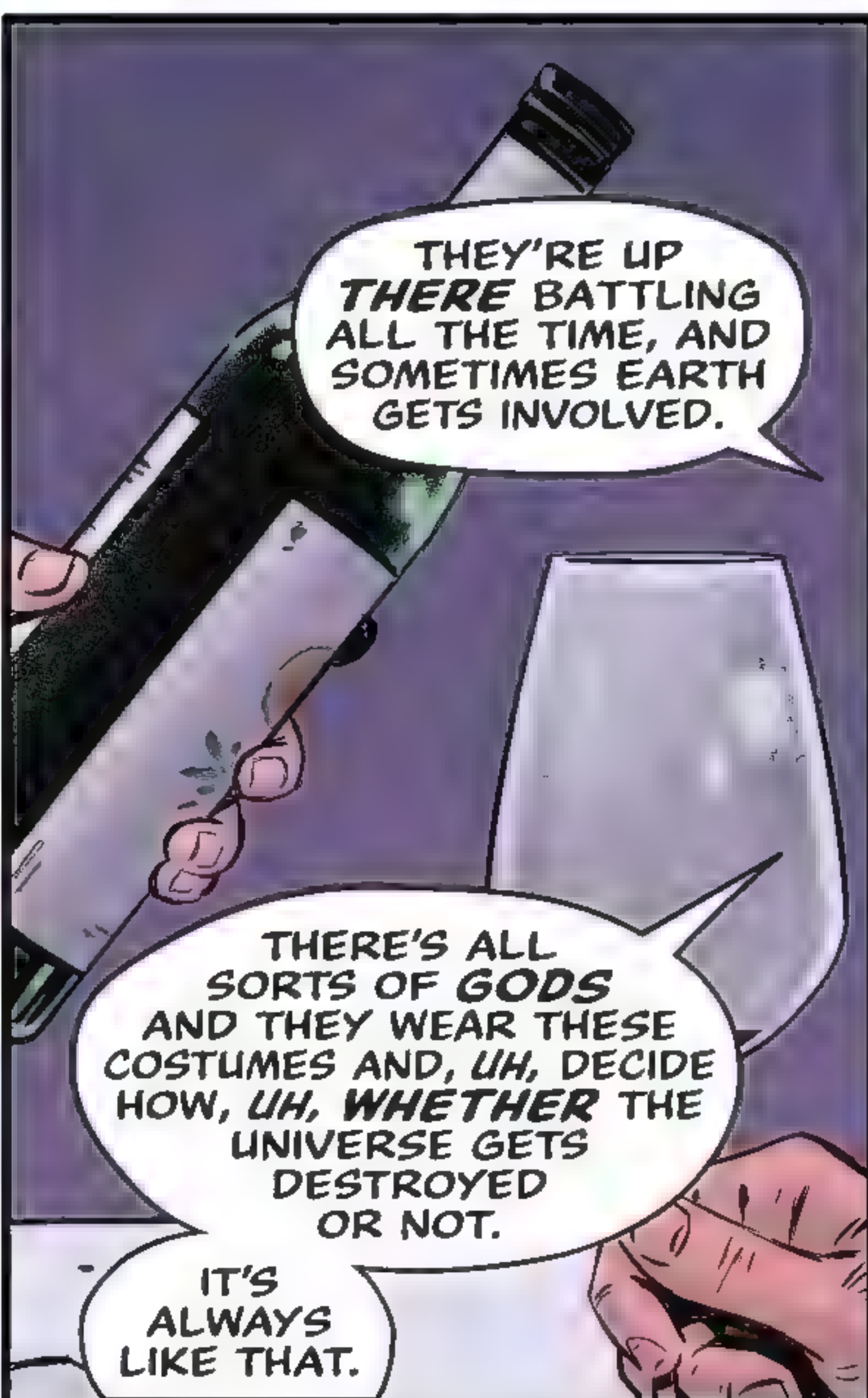
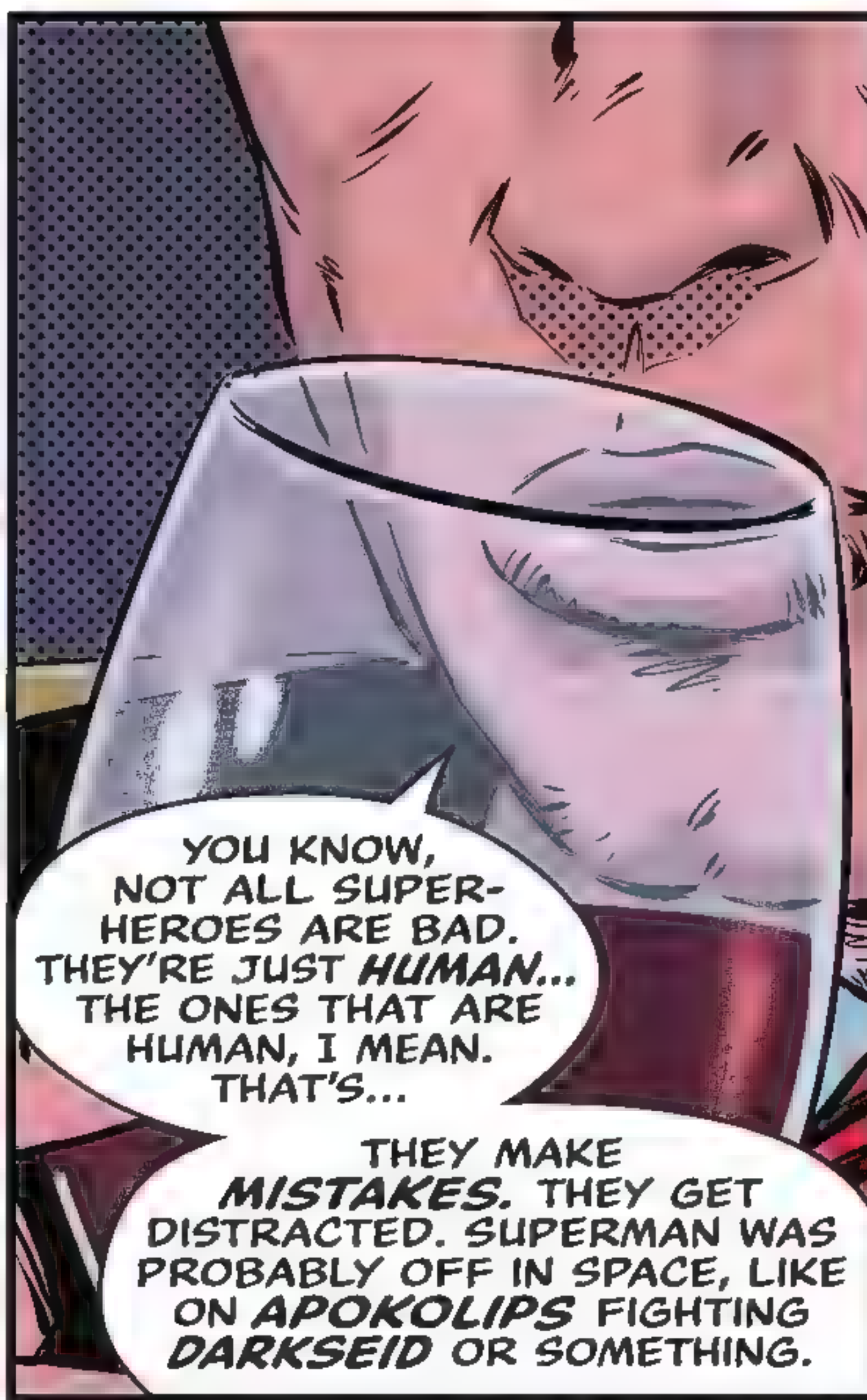


"I ALWAYS WANTED TO BE SUPERMAN WHEN I GREW UP. I MEAN, NOT, LIKE, SUPERMAN. LIKE, LADY SUPERMAN OR SOMETHING."

"THAT DAY I DECIDED TO BE A COP."

"FIGURED MAYBE I COULDN'T FLY AND SHOOT EYE LASERS, BUT AT LEAST I COULD HEAR MY OWN VOICE."







DEEP IN THE PAST,  
A LABYRINTH SAT  
IN A FIELD.

NO ONE KNEW WHY IT  
WAS THERE OR WHO  
BUILT IT.

SOME SAID IT WAS GODS--  
THAT THEY ENJOYED  
WATCHING THE FOLLY OF  
THOSE WHO ATTEMPTED  
ITS CHALLENGES.

SOME SAID IT WAS THE FIRST  
TRIBES, SHOWING THE GODS  
THAT THEY COULD BEAR SUCH  
CHALLENGES AND EMERGE  
TRIUMPHANT.

SOME JUST SAID THAT IT HAD  
ALWAYS BEEN THERE AND  
ALWAYS WOULD BE THERE.

THAT LIFE ITSELF CAME WITH  
THE MAZE, FOR LIFE ITSELF  
WAS THE MAZE. AND WHO  
WERE WE TO QUESTION  
THAT ETERNAL TRUTH?

YOU GOT  
IT, *MARY!*

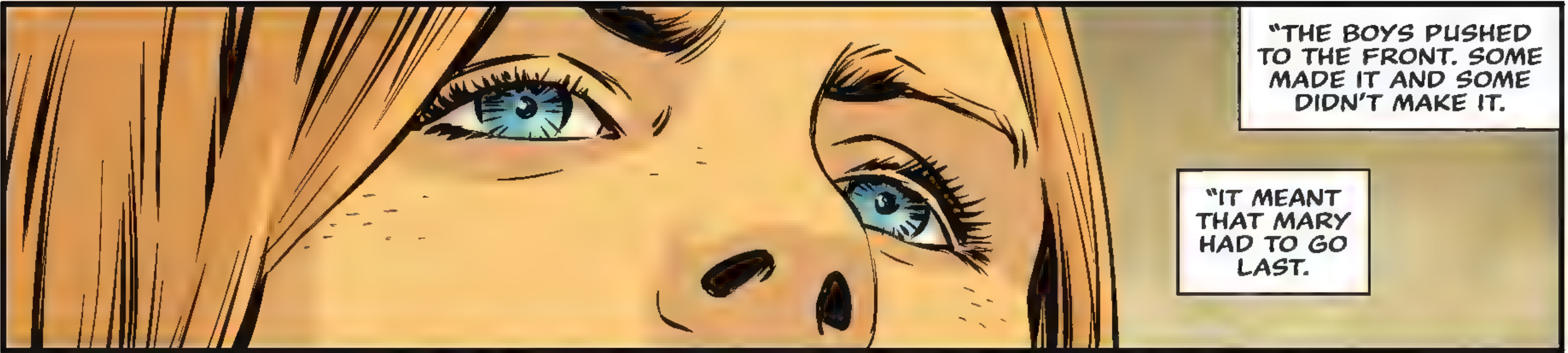
SHE'S A  
*GIRL!* SHE CAN'T  
DO IT!

IT'S RIGHT  
ON YOUR LEFT!  
YOU GOT TO  
*JUMP!*

SHE'S  
*LOSING*  
IT!

GO,  
*MARY!*  
GO!





"THE BOYS PUSHED TO THE FRONT. SOME MADE IT AND SOME DIDN'T MAKE IT.

"IT MEANT THAT MARY HAD TO GO LAST.



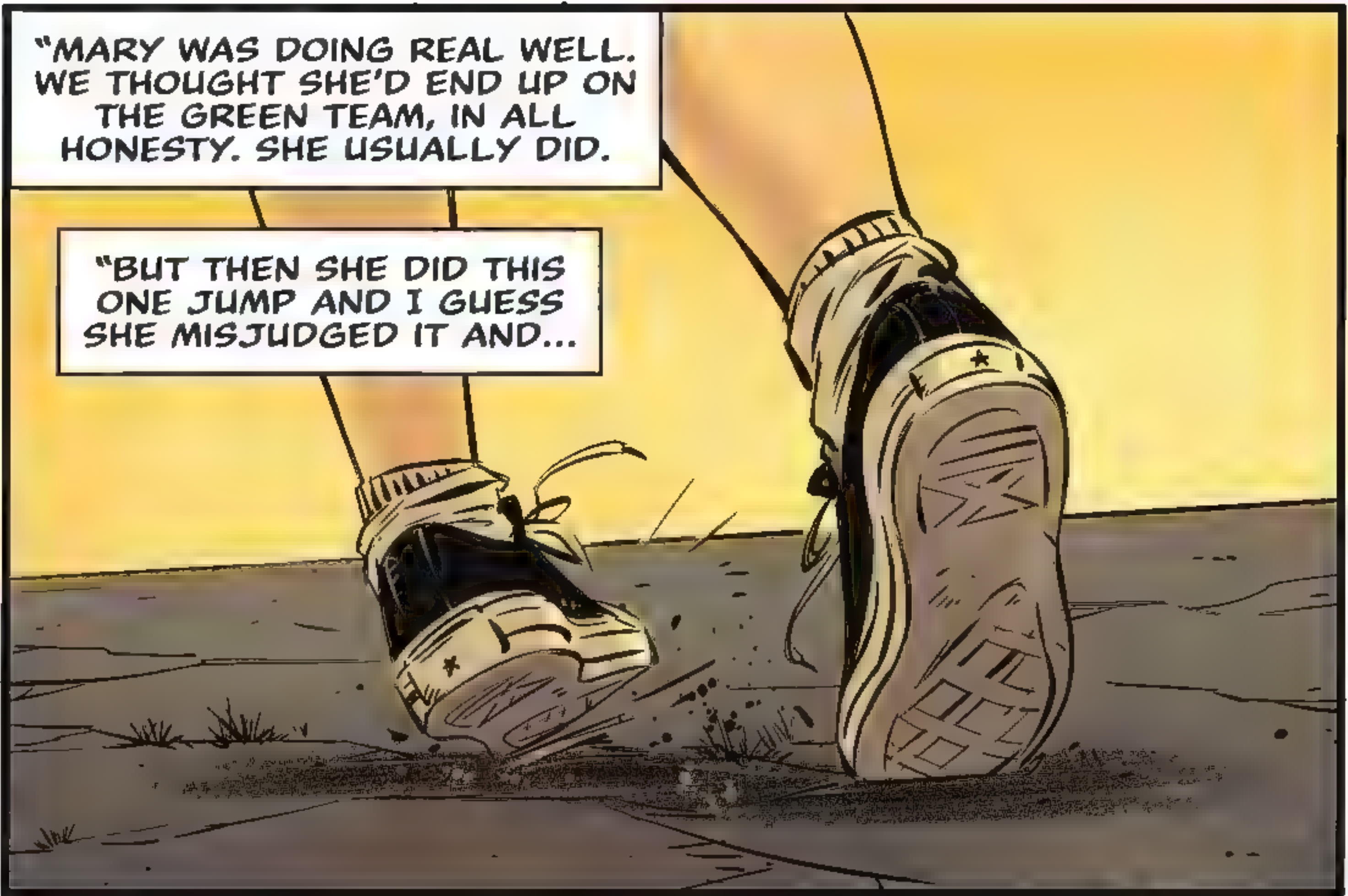
"IT WAS A FUN GAME AT THE TIME. WE WERE ALL LAUGHING AND TEASING.

"WHO'S GOING TO LAND? WHO'S GOING TO FALL?



"WHO'S GOING TO HELL?

"WHO'S GOING TO HEAVEN?



"MARY WAS DOING REAL WELL. WE THOUGHT SHE'D END UP ON THE GREEN TEAM, IN ALL HONESTY. SHE USUALLY DID.

"BUT THEN SHE DID THIS ONE JUMP AND I GUESS SHE MISJUDGED IT AND...

"...SHE JUST FELL OUT OF LINE.

"I WAS REALLY ROOTING FOR HER. BUT SOMETIMES WHAT YOU WANT DOESN'T--Y'KNOW... IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT YOU'RE CHEERING FOR...



"YOU GET TO THE END AND THERE'S THE SCORE."



"WE STOOD AT THE SIDELINES. WE USED TO BE ONE GROUP OF FRIENDS. REALLY CLOSE.

"AND AT LEAST FOR ME, I THOUGHT THAT WAS KIND OF FOREVER.

"THE GREEN TEAM, THE OUTSIDERS. THAT WAS JUST UNTIL THE NEXT TIME WE GOT OUT THERE."

YOU, ALL OF YOU, PERFORMED SO WELL AND SHOULD BE **EXTREMELY** PROUD.

YOU PLAYED **MAGNIFICENTLY**.

THE GREEN TEAM PLAYED GOOD! THE OUTSIDERS DIDN'T!

WHAT DO WE GET?!

IT'S JUST **RANDOM!** ANY OF YOU COULD'VE TRIPPED TOO!

DON'T THINK YOU'RE **SPECIAL!**

CHILDREN, THERE'S NO NEED TO **FUSS**.

YOU HAVE MADE YOUR EFFORT. YOU HAVE BEEN JUDGED.

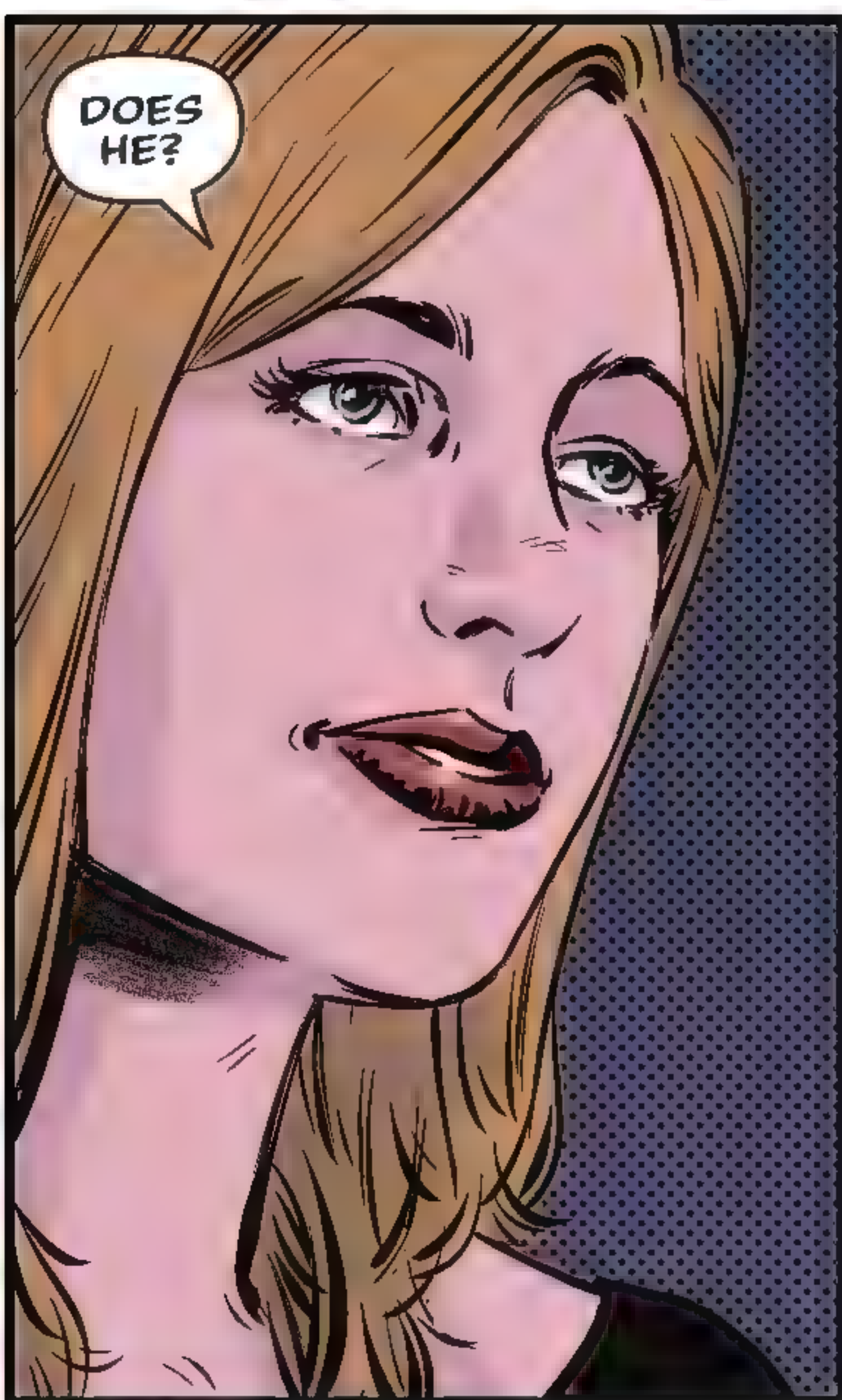
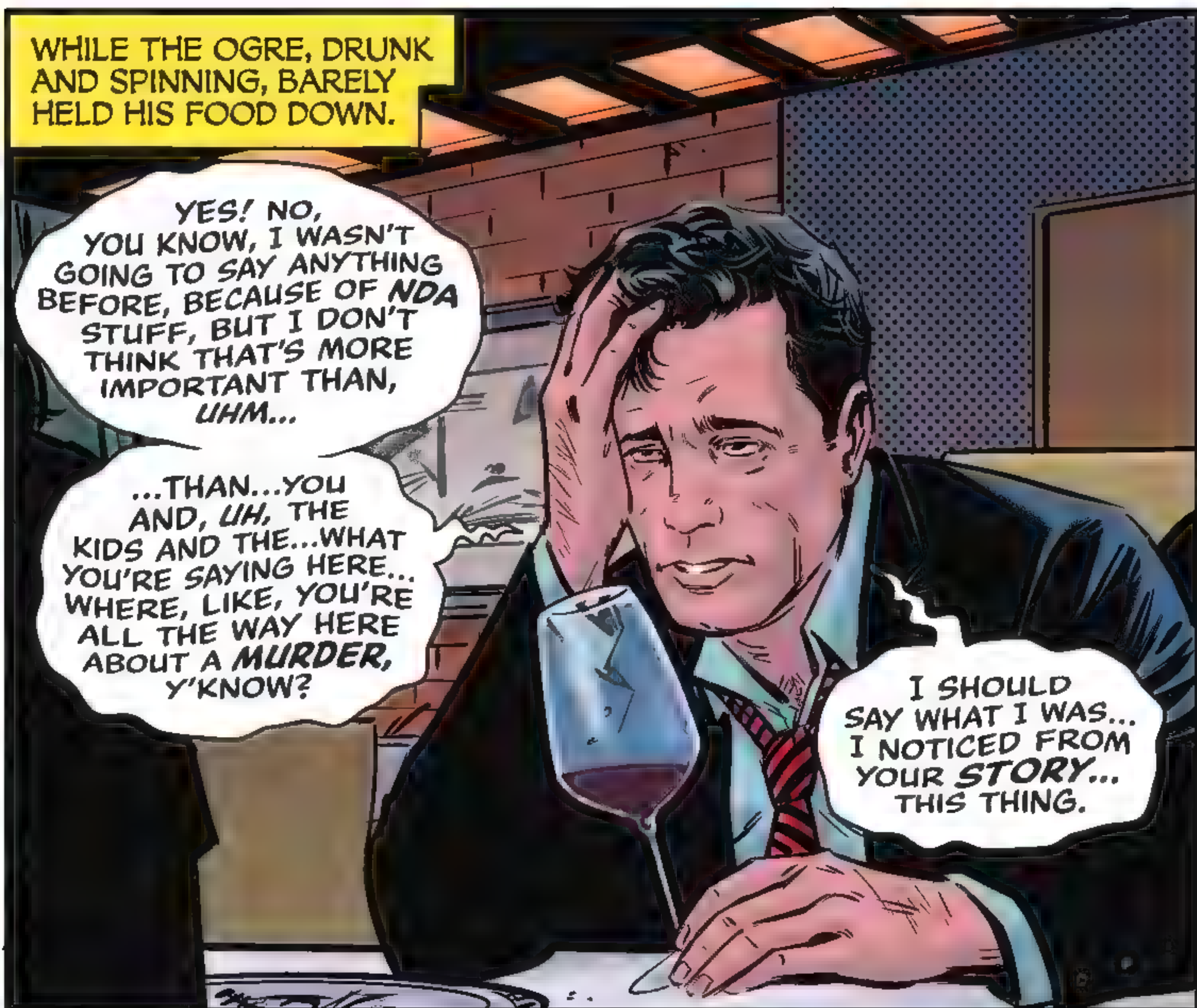
LET US NOW SORT OUT YOUR **REMUNERATION**.



BACK IN THE TAVERN, THE PRINCESS HELD HER PEACE.



WHILE THE OGRE, DRUNK AND SPINNING, BARELY HELD HIS FOOD DOWN.









MEANWHILE, AN HOUR'S RIDE AWAY, AT LEAST ON A FAST STEED, A KNIGHT SAT IN A CASTLE AND PREPARED FOR BATTLE.



IT IS WELL-KNOWN THAT A KNIGHT MUST OBTAIN THREE SACRED REQUIREMENTS IF HE HOPES TO CONQUER ANY WORTHY FOE.



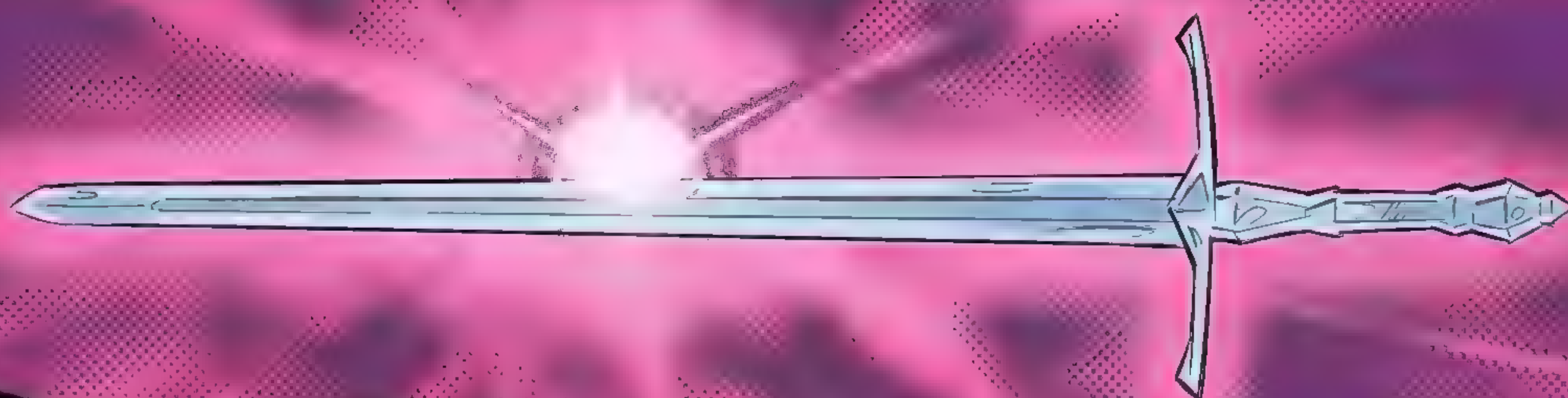
HE NEEDS THE HONED SKILL OF A LIFE OF BITTER COMBAT.



HE NEEDS THE INSTINCTUAL COURAGE ACQUIRED ONLY THROUGH DEDICATION TO A STRICT CODE OF MORALITY AND TEMPERANCE.



AND, OF COURSE, PERHAPS MOST IMPORTANTLY...



...A GOOD KNIGHT NEEDS A GOOD SWORD.

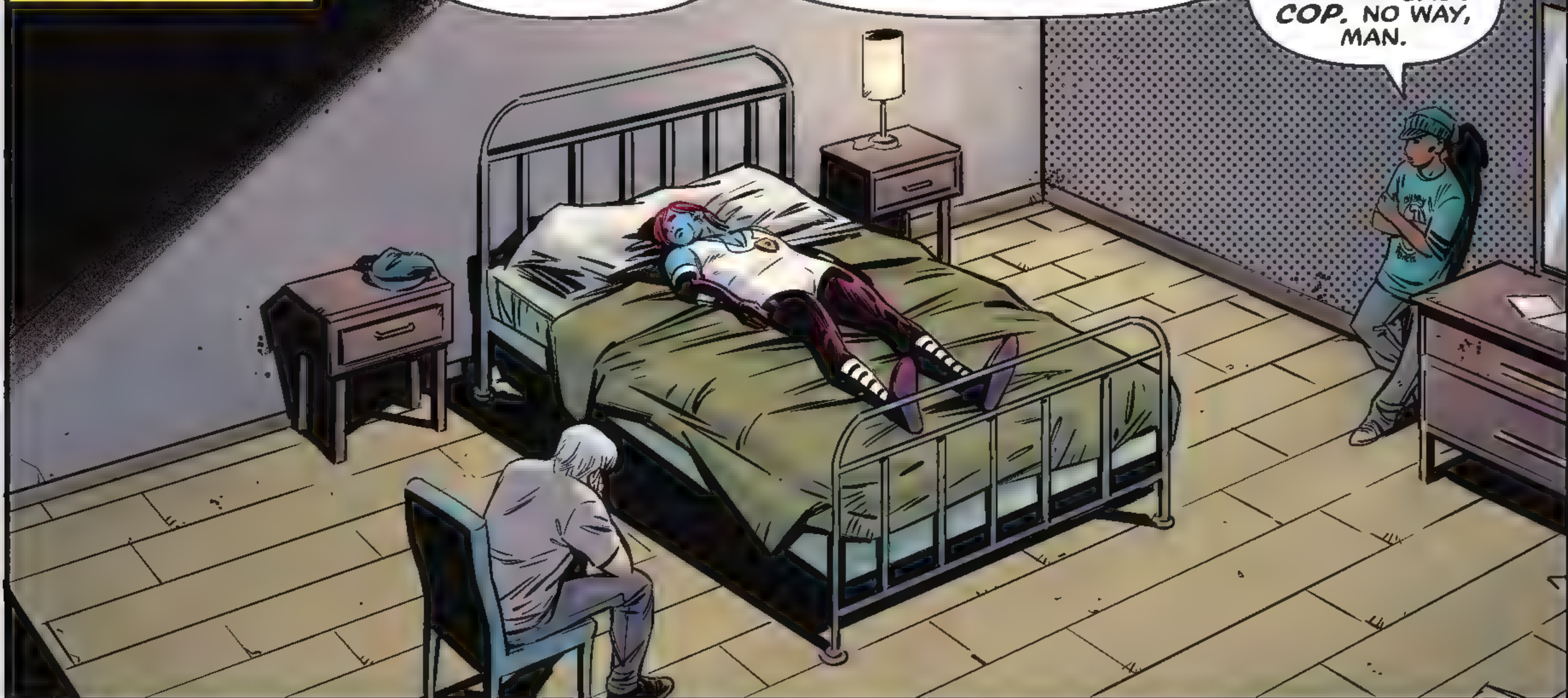


ACROSS THE KINGDOM,  
A PRINCE KEPT WATCH  
AT HIS FRIEND'S SIDE.

HE'S BEEN LIKE THIS FOR,  
LIKE, **EVER**. GOOD DAYS  
AND BAD ONES,  
Y'KNOW?

THAT'S WHY WE HAD TO WAIT TILL  
**LADY COP** LEFT TOWN TO GET YOU  
OUT AND WHY THAT @#%\$ HAD TO  
BE **PRECISE**.

HE COULD  
FOOL **COOPER**,  
BUT HE ISN'T  
FIGHTING **LADY  
COP**. NO WAY,  
MAN.



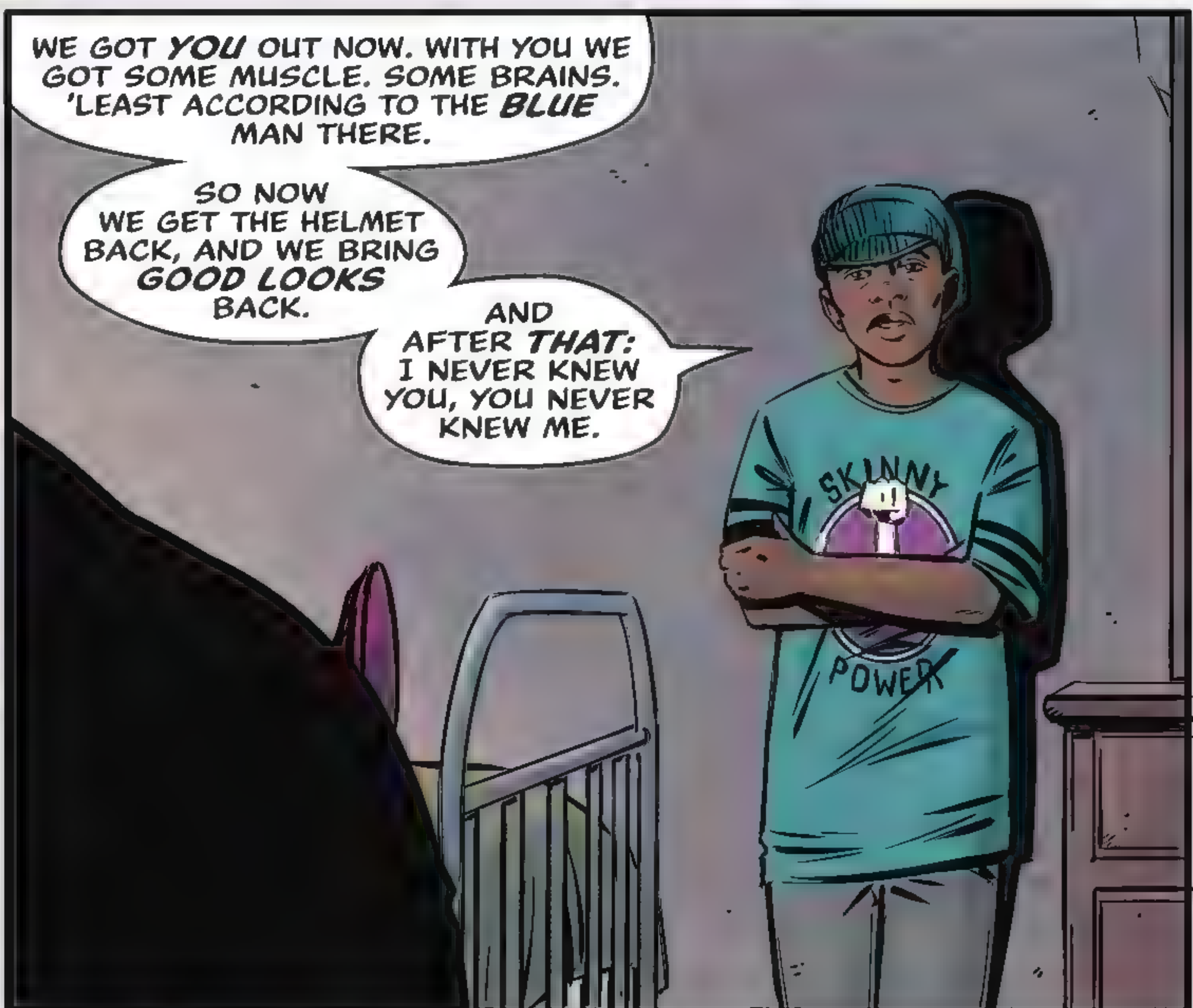
WHAT'S  
NEXT?



WE GOT **YOU** OUT NOW. WITH YOU WE  
GOT SOME MUSCLE. SOME BRAINS.  
'LEAST ACCORDING TO THE **BLUE  
MAN** THERE.

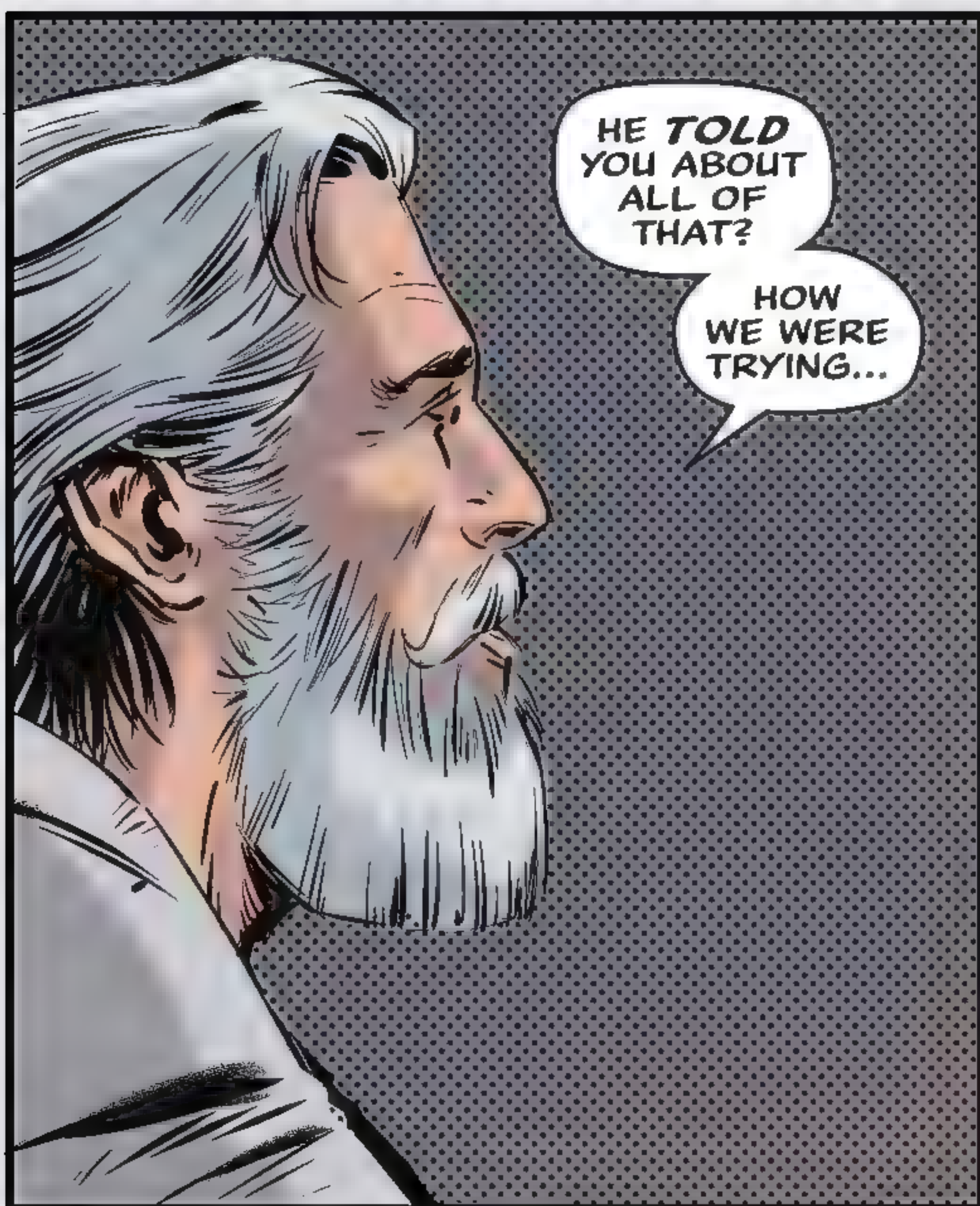
SO NOW  
WE GET THE HELMET  
BACK, AND WE BRING  
**GOOD LOOKS**  
BACK.

AND  
AFTER **THAT**:  
I NEVER KNEW  
YOU, YOU NEVER  
KNEW ME.



HE **TOLD**  
YOU ABOUT  
ALL OF  
THAT?

HOW  
WE WERE  
TRYING...



@#%\$, MAN,  
WHY DID YOU  
THINK WE DIDN'T  
**KILL** HIM?

WE **NEED**  
EACH OTHER,  
Y'KNOW?

GOOD  
DAYS, BAD  
DAYS, THAT'S  
THE WAY  
IT IS.





WHILE OUR PRINCE SOUGHT A WAY FORWARD, A MONSTER EXECUTED HIS OWN DEVIOUS PLAN.



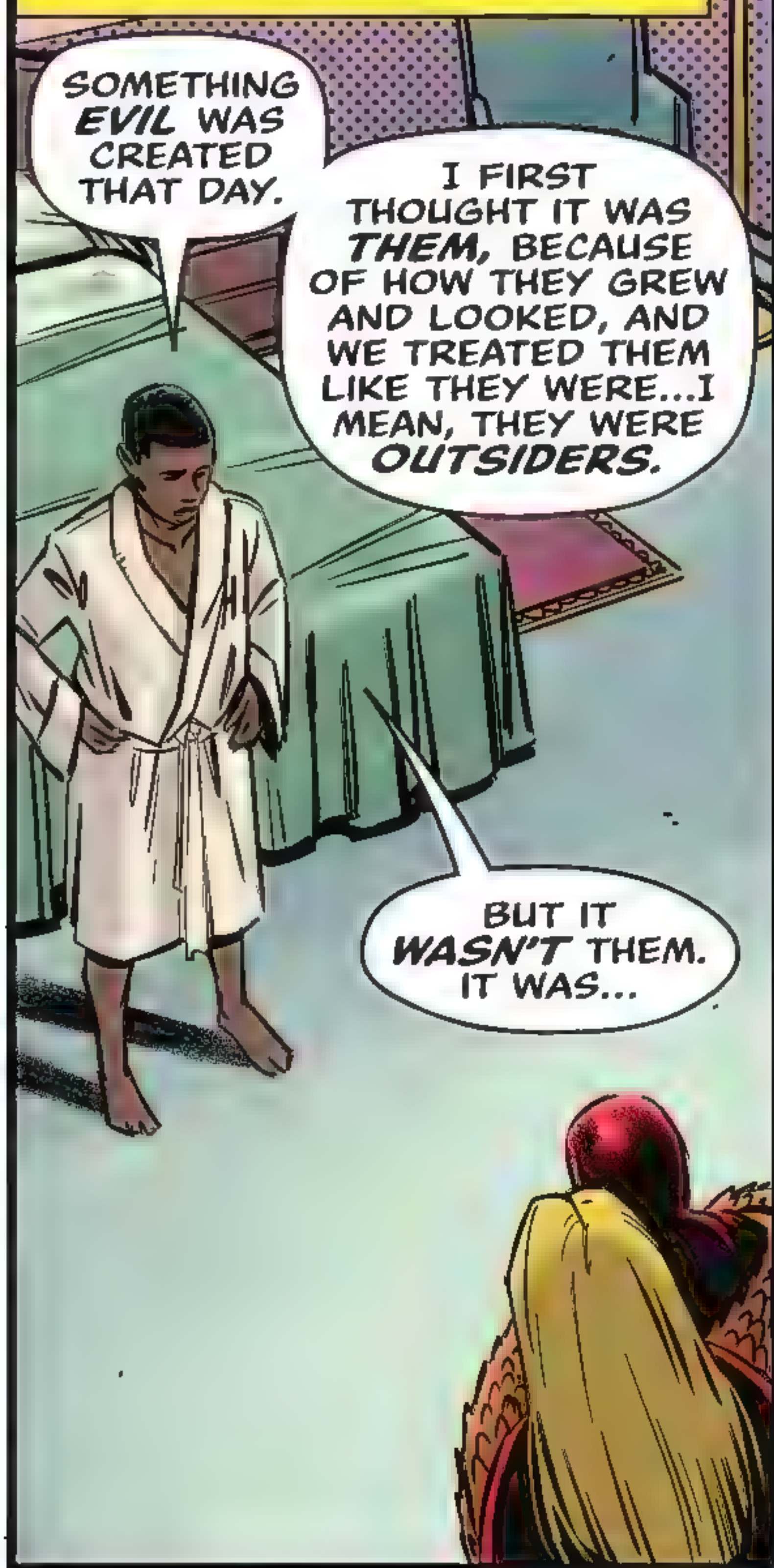
AMAZIN' RONNIE.  
HE'S **READY**. GET THE THING.

AS WITH ALL MONSTERS, HE KNEW WELL THE WAYS OF KNIGHTS.



AYE, AYE, CAPTAIN!

HE UNDERSTOOD THAT KNIGHTS DEPENDED ON THEIR EXPERIENCE.



SOMETHING **EVIL** WAS CREATED THAT DAY.

I FIRST THOUGHT IT WAS **THEM**, BECAUSE OF HOW THEY GREW AND LOOKED, AND WE TREATED THEM LIKE THEY WERE... I MEAN, THEY WERE **OUTSIDERS**.

BUT IT **WASN'T** THEM. IT WAS...

THEIR CODE.



LIFE IS **WEIRD**, Y'KNOW?

IT'S LIKE IT SHOULD MAKE **SENSE**, BUT I DON'T KNOW.

YOU DON'T ALWAYS WIN BY WINNING.

AND, OF COURSE, THEIR STEEL.



HERE YOU GO!

THE, UH, THE **WARLORD SWORD**. I GUESS.

IT'S **REALLY** NICE, BUT KIND OF HEAVY.

ANYWAY, IT'S **TIME**, ISN'T IT?

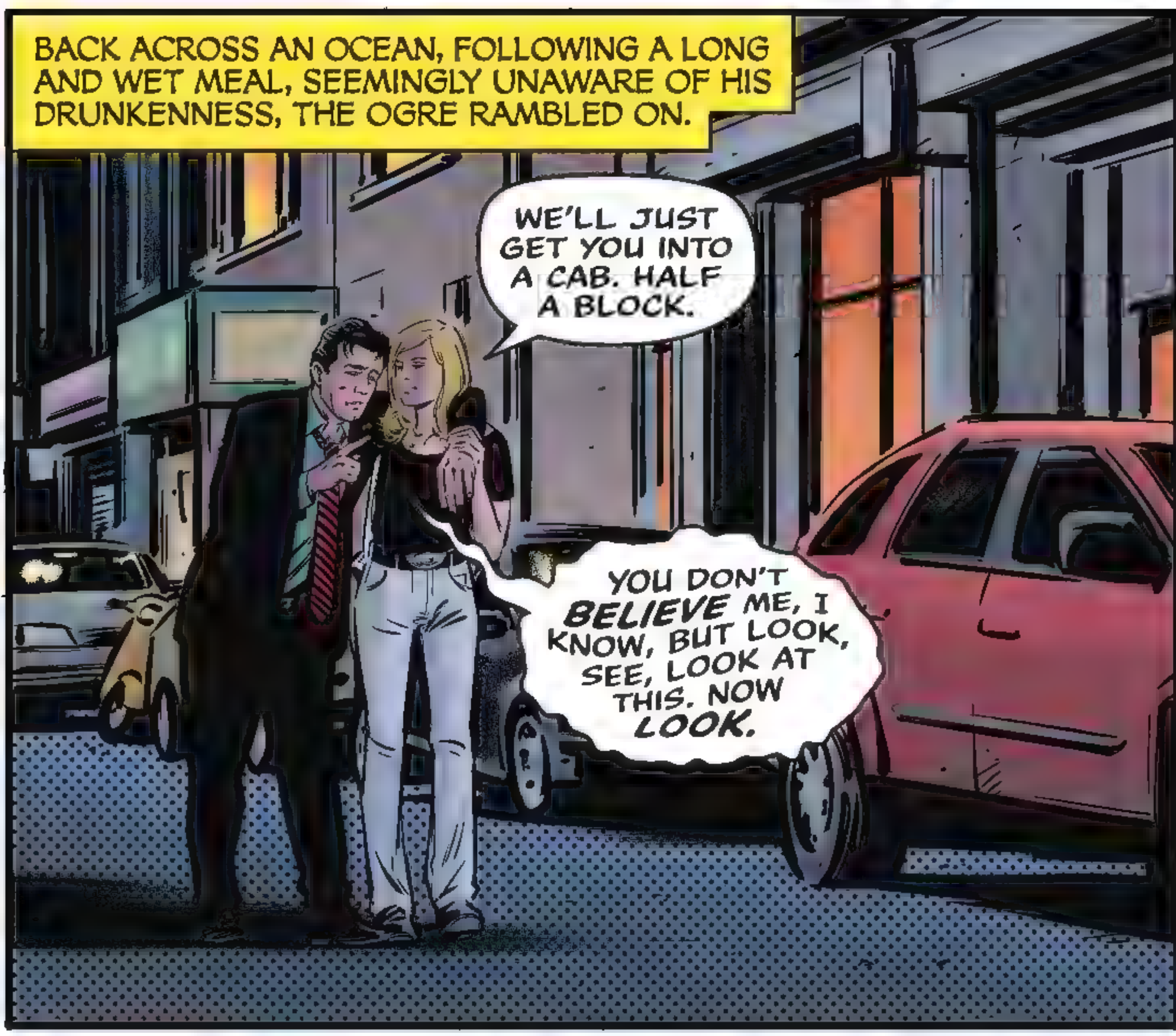
TIME TO **STOMP** OUT THE BAD GUYS THAT ARE LEFT.



AND **WE'D** LIKE TO OFFER YOU SOME HELP.



BACK ACROSS AN OCEAN, FOLLOWING A LONG AND WET MEAL, SEEMINGLY UNAWARE OF HIS DRUNKENNESS, THE OGRE RAMBLLED ON.



WE'LL JUST GET YOU INTO A CAB. HALF A BLOCK.

YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME, I KNOW, BUT LOOK, SEE, LOOK AT THIS. NOW LOOK.



YOU DON'T HAVE TO--

JUST STOP, OKAY? LOOK. ALL RIGHT, HERE, LOOK.



WHO... AM... I...?

FOOSH



THE CREEPER!

WHAT?!



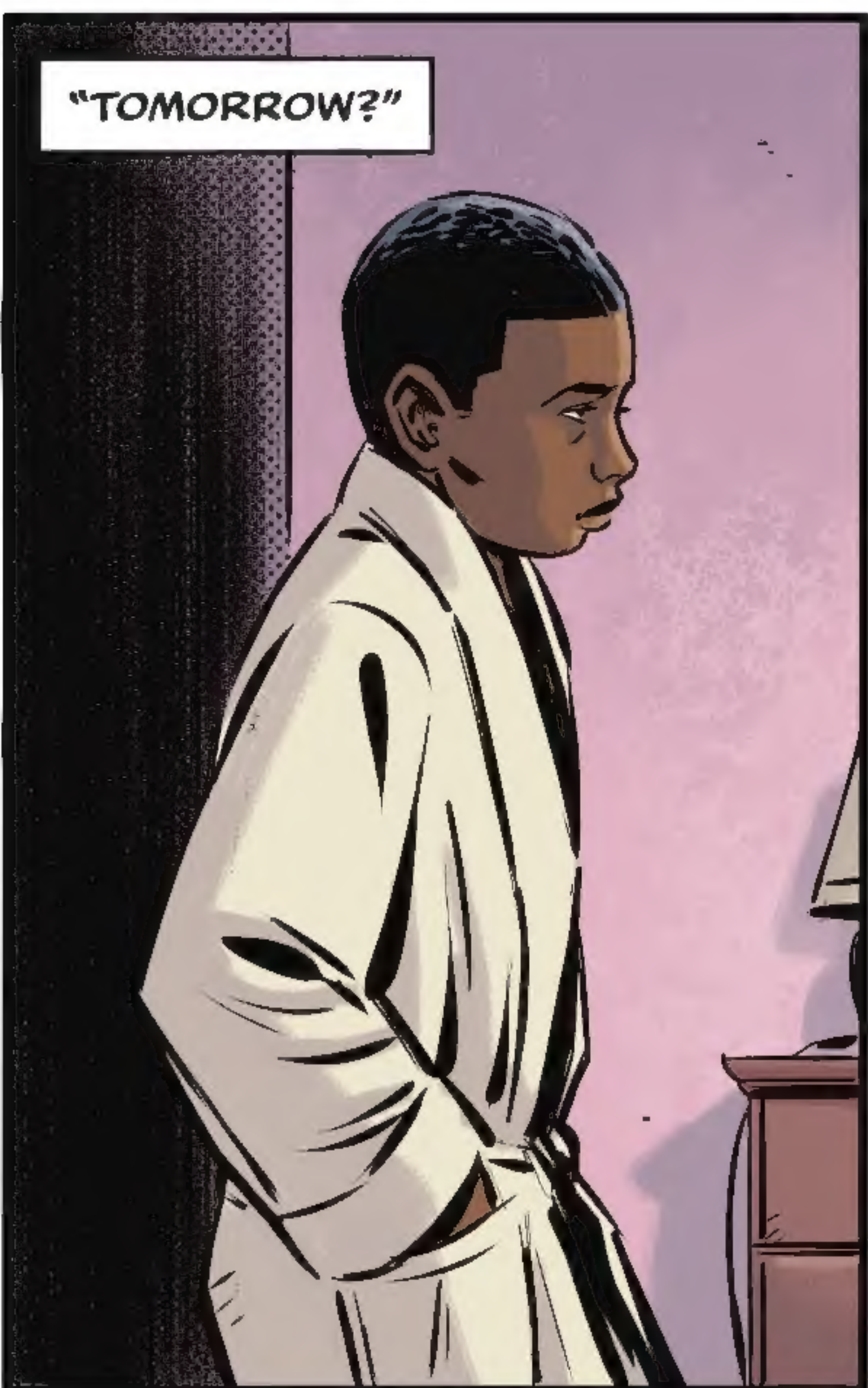
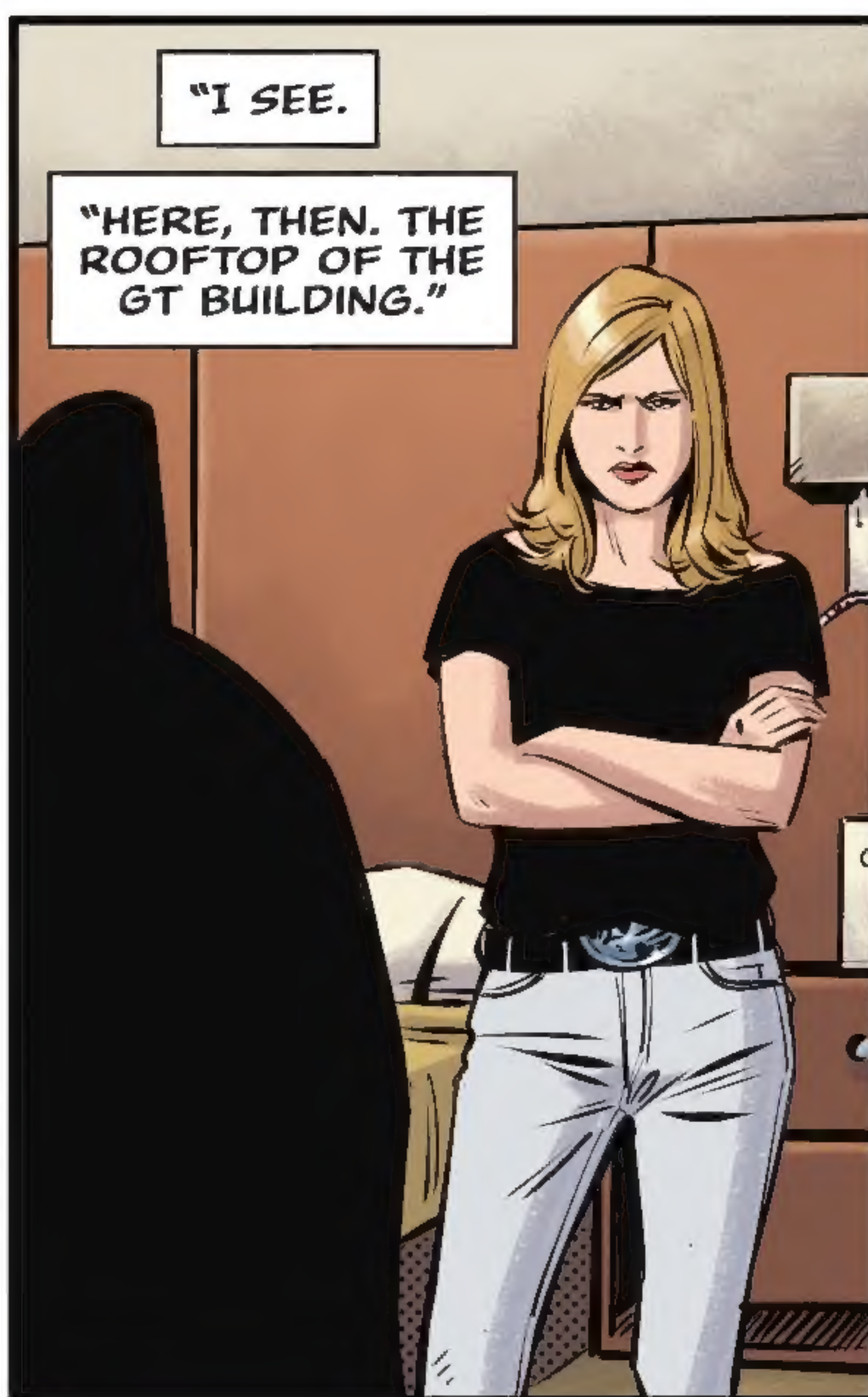
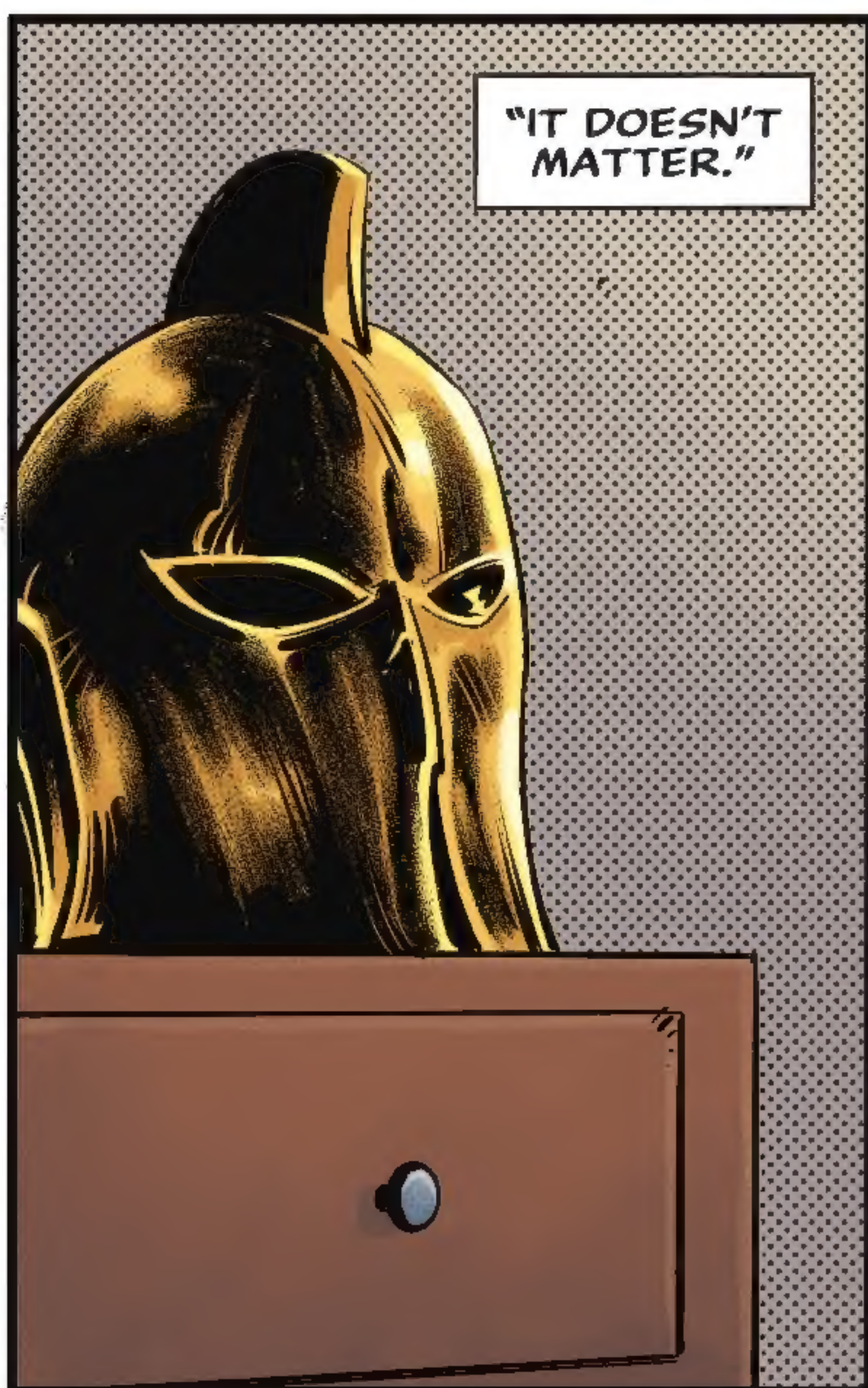
POW



JESUS CHRIST.

WHAT IS WRONG WITH EVERYONE?







AN EERIE MELODY HAUNTS THE GOTHAM CITY STREETS...  
CAN THE DARK KNIGHT DISCOVER WHAT  
SINISTER FORCE IS PLUCKING THE STRINGS?

"Ram V and Albuquerque  
weave a delicate dance  
between supernatural  
horror and superheroics."  
—comicbook.com

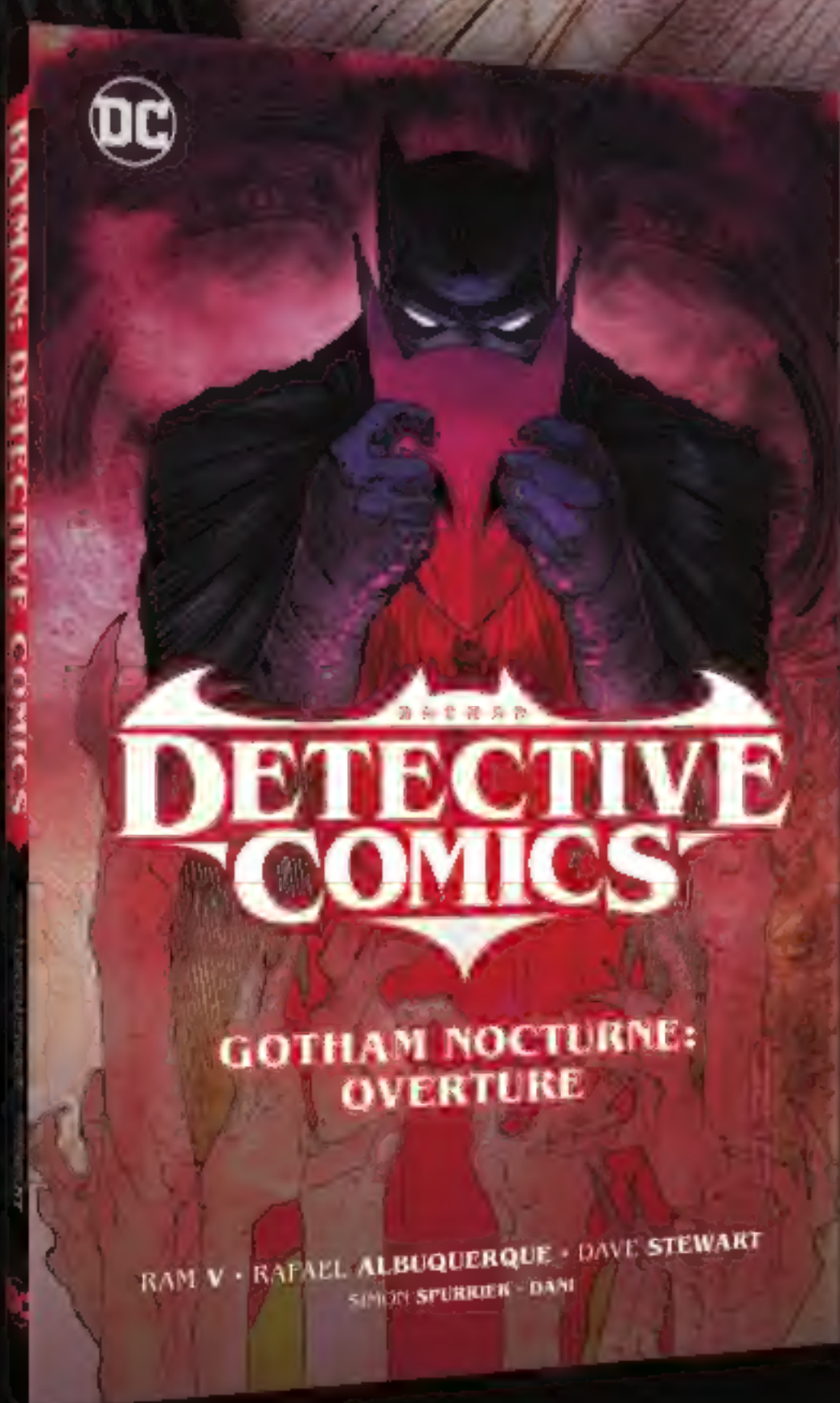
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**GOTHAM NOCTURNE:  
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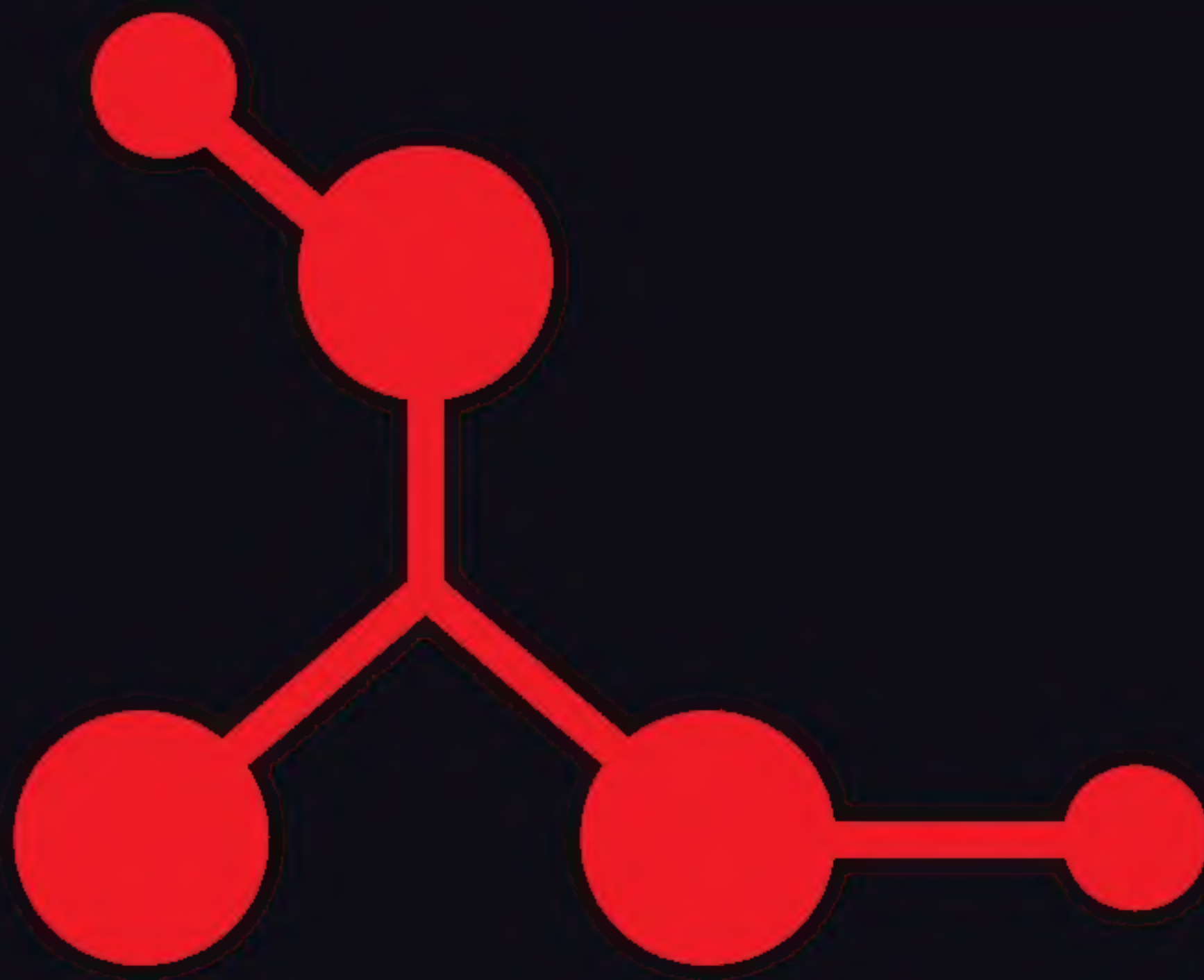
WRITTEN BY  
**RAM V**  
WITH SI SPURRIER

ART BY  
**RAFAEL  
ALBUQUERQUE**  
WITH DANI



AUGUST





"ONE SIDE GETS A **DREAM**  
COME TRUE. THE OTHER—  
A **NIGHTMARE.**"





SON OF ULTRON

"THIS FAN...  
THIS MONSTER!"

